[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

I regret that I have been obliged to disallow some motions brought forward by non-official members at this stage also. Section 16 of Regulation II of 1097 declares that certain items of the budget are non-votable; it is not competent to any non-official member to bring forward a motion for the omission or reduction of a grant in respect of any of these items, and the difficulty will not be obviated even if he couples it with a votable item. Such motions are clearly out of order and have to be disallowed on that ground. It is for this reason that motions for the abolition of Peishkarships, the Commissionership of Devicolam, the office of the Head Sirkar Vakil, the Excise Commissionership, the posts of Executive Engineers, the Directorship of Public Instruction, etc., have been disallowed. A few items have been printed in the budget as votable which are really non-votable, such as the pay of the Auditor under the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the grant on account of the reconnaissance survey of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil railway line, and certain items of expenditure on account of the Guest House. The motions concerning these items have been disallowed.

An item once allowed to stand in the budget is not open to discussion or modification at any further stage of the debate.

Omission or reduction can only be made in respect of a total demand or of any specific item included in that demand, but not so as to touch more demands than one by means of one and the same motion. For this reason I have disallowed a motion brought forward for the reduction of travelling allowances in all the departments. One other motion also which I have disallowed, is worthy of mention. That relates to the investment of Rs. 3.053 lakhs out of the assets of the Government with the Travancore Sugars Company. This is not an item of expenditure, but an investment, and it is therefore not votable.

We shall now proceed to the voting of the demands for grants.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Demand I.—Land Revenue.

Mr. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to move for Demand I, for a grant of Rs. 8. 78 lakhs in respect of the Land Revenue Department.

Motion 1.

Mr. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Mr. President, I beg to make the following motion:

1. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,050 for the Land Revenue and Income-Tax Commissioner by Rs. 1,300.

ചിലവു കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതായി കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങളിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കാര്യക്ഷമതയോടുകൂടിയ ഭരണത്തിന് ഏതെങ്കിലും നിലയിൽ കുറവുവരുത്തുമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശം ഈ വശത്തുള്ള മെംബർന്മാരിൽ ആർക്കും തന്നെ ഇല്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഇവിടെ പ്രധാനമായി പ്രസ്താവിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഭരണച്ചിലവുകൾ

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പലവഴികളിലായി ആണ്ടുതോറും സീമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ആവശ്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതലായ ചിലവുകളേയും അധികച്ചിലവുകളേയും കഴിയുംവിധം കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള ഉദ്ദേശം മാത്രമേ ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളൂ.

ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ പ്രധാനോദ്ദേശം ലാൻഡ്റവന്യൂകമിഷണരുടേയും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സിൽബന്ധികളുടേയും സഞ്ചാരപ്പടികൾക്കു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചിലവിൽ ൧,൦൦൦ രൂപാ എങ്കിലും കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണ്. പലേ കാരണങ്ങളാലും ഈ തുക കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതിൽ ആക്ഷേപമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ൧൯൨൯-ലെ പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കലിൻപ്രകാരം ഈ ഇനത്തിൽ ൫,൪൦൦ രൂപായെ ചിലവായിട്ടുള്ളൂ എന്നു കാണുന്നു. ൧൯൩൦-ലേക്കു നൂ,൪൦൦ രൂപാ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു വളരെ കൂടുതലാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ലാൻഡ്റവന്യൂകമിഷണർ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തുനിന്നു പുറപ്പെട്ടു നാഗർകോവിലിൽ എത്തി അന്നേദിവസം തന്നെ തിരിയെ എത്തേണ്ട അത്യാവശ്യം എപ്പോഴുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ൧൯൨൯-ൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സഞ്ചിതകളിൽ ബാറാവാങ്ങീട്ടുള്ള ദിവസങ്ങൾ വളരെ കുറവായിരുന്നിട്ടും ൫,൪൦൦ രൂപായെ ചിലവായിട്ടുള്ളൂ. ലാൻഡ്റവന്യൂകമിഷണർ ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലും താമസിച്ചു പരിശോധനകൾ നടത്തുകയും, ജോലിസംബന്ധമായ പലേ സംഗതികളിലും വേണ്ട ഉപദേശങ്ങളും ഉത്തരവുകളും കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ട ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനാകയാൽ ആയതു ശരിയായി നടത്തുന്ന പക്ഷം മിക്കവാറും ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ അദ്ദേഹം ബാറാതന്നെ വാങ്ങേണ്ടതായി വരുന്നതാണ്. ഈ കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഈ ഇനത്തിലേ ചിലവിൽ ൧,൦൦൦ രൂപാ എങ്കിലും കുറയ്ക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: I support the motion.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I also beg to support the motion as an expression of my emphatic protest against the mysterious and bewildering manner in which officers are sometimes seen promoted to the higher ranks of the public service in the State during one administration without due regard being paid to their traditions in the preceding administration. Whatever may be the good intentions—

PRESIDENT: You are out of order. You cannot discuss general questions of policy when dealing with the reduction of a specific item in the budget.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, the Land Revenue Commissioner is not ordinarily a travelling officer. He is only an administrative officer. But the income-tax work is tacked on to him, and this work, in its initial stage, requires a great deal of guidance to the officers and a lot of examination and correction. It is to enable him to tour frequently in connection with his income-tax work that this amount has been put down in the budget. I have no objection, in deference to the wish of the other side of the House, to a reduction of Rs. 500 from this allotment.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: I accept Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar's proposal, and beg the permission of the President to amend my motion accordingly.

PRESIDENT: You may amend the motion as requested; and I take it that the House accepts it. The amended motion will read as follows:

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,050 for the Land Revenue and Income-Tax Commissioner by Rs. 500.

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[Mr. A. Govinda Menon.]

The motion, as amended, was accepted by the House.

Motion 2.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

2. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 57,577 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 4,200.

ഡിവിഷൻ കച്ചേരികളിലെ ചിലവിനത്തിൽ ൧൯൨൬ ൽ പുതുക്കിയ അടങ്കൽ പ്രകാരം ൫,൪൦,൫൭൭ രൂപാ ചിലവായിട്ടുള്ളത് ൧൯൨൫-ലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ൫,൫൭,൫൭൭ രൂപായാക്കി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ അധികച്ചിലവിനുള്ള ഒരു കാരണം ഈയിട നടത്തിയ ശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടലാണെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഇതിനുമുമ്പു പലേ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ നടത്തുകയും ശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടൽ കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ആ അവസരങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം ലാൻഡുറവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ആ സംഗതികളിൽ നിന്ന് ഒഴിച്ചുവിടുകയാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇപ്പോൾ നടത്തിട്ടുള്ള ശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടലുകളിലും ലാൻഡുറവന്യൂ വകുപ്പിലേക്കു ചിറമ്മസ്ഥാനമാണ് കിട്ടാനിടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ലാൻഡുറവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ സല്പശമ്പളക്കാർക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സല്പമായ ശമ്പളക്കൂട്ടലിൽ ഒരു കാര്യമായും കുറ്റപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു ഞാനെന്നല്ല ഈ വശത്തുള്ള മാന്യന്മാരിൽ ആരുംതന്നെ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

ലാൻഡുറവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ താഴ്ന്നതരം ശമ്പളക്കാരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തോടുകൂടി ന്യായമായ നിലയിലെത്തുന്നതിനു അവയെ പിന്നെയും വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതായിരിക്കെ ആയതിനു ഒരു സഹായമായി തീരുന്നതിനായിട്ടെങ്കിലും ആ വകുപ്പിലെ ന്യായഹിതമായ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കടുപ്പിടിച്ചു കുറയ്ക്കേണ്ടത് അത്യാവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനു ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി പറയുന്നതായാൽ, ദേവികുളം കമിഷണർക്ക് ൬൦൦ രൂപായാണ് ശമ്പളം നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെങ്കിലും ഇന്നത്തെ കമിഷണർക്ക് ഇപ്പോൾ ൫൦൪ രൂപാ ശമ്പളവും രണ്ടു വർഷം കഴിയുമ്പോൾ ആയതു ൫൨൦൦ രൂപായായി വർദ്ധിയ്ക്കുന്നതുമാണ്. ഈ ഒരിനത്തിൽ മാത്രം ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരുണ്ടിപേയ്ക്കു ൯,൨൦൦ രൂപാ അധികച്ചിലവുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നു ഇതിനുള്ള ആവശ്യം എന്താണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ദേവികുളം കമിഷണരുടെ ശമ്പളത്തിൻറെ കൂട്ടൽകുറവിനെപ്പറ്റി പ്രതിപാദിക്കാൻ ഈ കൌൺസിലിന് അധികാരമില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നുവെങ്കിലും അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻറെ വകുപ്പിലുള്ള സിൽബന്ധികളിൽ ഈ അധികച്ചിലവായ ൯,൨൦൦ രൂപായും കിട്ടത്തക്കപണ്ണം അവരെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു.

PRESIDENT: You cannot make any suggestion you choose in regard to a non-votable item when it is your specific object to effect reduction in a votable item. No doubt, in a motion for the omission or reduction of a lump allotment, you may discuss the general policy underlying the administration of the department to which that allotment relates; but that right is obviously somewhat different from the one which you wish to exercise. You want to reduce the staff employed under the Devicolam Commissioner, because you feel that the pay drawn by that officer is too much.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: If so, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 3.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: I have brought forward the same motion.

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PRESIDENT: If it is identical with the motion just withdrawn, and if the reasoning is identical, what I have said in regard to that motion applies to your proposition as well.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: May I be permitted to say a word about the motion?

PRESIDENT: No, I must know first whether yours is an identical motion and whether the arguments proposed to be adduced are the same.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: They are in a way identical.

PRESIDENT: If so, the motion is out of order.

The following motion was accordingly not made.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

3. To reduce the allotment of Rs 57,577 for Division Cutcherries by Rs. 4,200.

Motion 4.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I beg to make the following motion:

4. That the allotment of Rs. 1,91,736 under 1 C. Land Revenue—Taluk Cutcherries—Establishment, be reduced by Rs. 26,880 (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars.)

Mr. President, I realise that this is a very delicate subject. It affects the bread and prospects of a number of young men. Further, motions of this kind relating to expenditure on the civil service are not taken by the official circle in that calm, cool and dispassionate spirit which we are entitled to expect from people who have risen to eminent positions. Even comparisons of figures seem to provoke ebullitions that mar the dignity of the House. I, therefore, feel that, when we touch upon subjects which are part of the civil service, I should explain that we do it, not from any spirit of carping criticism, but purely in the interests of the public service. We feel that the allotment for expenditure in the Land Revenue Department is large. Assistant Tahsildarship is one of the offices that have been created very recently. Three reasons have been put forward in support of the arrangement by two gentlemen with whom I came in contact. The first reason is that it is a link in the Revenue Department, and that, if that link is broken, it will be difficult to work the department. The second argument advanced is that there are lots of *porambokes*, and that, unless we detail special officers, it would be difficult to detect and conserve these *porambokes* as Sirkar lands. Thirdly, it was stated that the office carries a lot of potentialities with it, that at present we are not in a position to effect any reduction, and that we must give it a trial. These are the arguments given and I do not propose to advance any further argument. At present, in the Land Revenue Department, we have a number of Tahsildars who have been shorn of their Devaswom and criminal jurisdiction. They have very little work to do and the Assistant Tahsildars' work may also be attended to by them. We have further the old Deputy Tahsildars under

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[Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar.]

a different name and a number of head clerks, taluk surveyors, samprathies and a lot of clerks, about 200 or 300 in number, under different designations. As to the work that is to be done by these Assistant Tahsildars—

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: There are no taluk surveyors now working in the taluks.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I beg pardon of the Council. Further arguments are not necessary as to their routine work. Mr. C. J. Curien has given us so graphic a picture of it that most of us are convinced. I do not wish to take up the time of the Council any longer. I therefore, move, Sir, for the reduction of the estimate for the Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: I beg to second the motion.

MR K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, I see from the large number of motions made on this subject that I have to face the opposition of a united front. But I rejoice in the hope that my task will be rendered easy, as I have to deal with a body of most intelligent men, and I am sure that they will take an unprejudiced view of the whole situation before they come to a final decision. I shall lay before the House a few facts and figures during the short time at my disposal and try to convince it of the necessity and importance of retaining this class of officers. One can very well understand why this subject has engaged the attention of a large number of members on the other side of the House. They are here representing the land-holders, of whom I am glad to say I am myself one. Every one of us, as a land-holder, is intimately concerned with the work of the Revenue Department, as it so vitally affects us. The questions that have to be answered are (i) why were the Assistant Tahsildars created; (2) what is the work done by them; (iii) whether it is such as will justify their continuance; and (iv) what will be the result, if they are abolished. I shall try briefly to answer each of these questions.

The appointment of these Assistant Tahsildars is closely connected with what is called land records maintenance work. There is another motion before the House regarding the L. R. M. staff. When that question comes up, I shall deal with the nature and scope of the L. R. M. work. Ever since the settlement was finished, the question of maintaining land records in proper condition has been engaging the attention of the Government. Under the L. R. M. scheme devised in 1082, a taluk surveyor was appointed in each taluk with instructions to train the accountants and samprathies for survey work; and, assisted by the village staff, the samprathi and the surveyor were to keep up the work. The arrangement did not work well.

Subsequently temporary accountants were appointed in taluks, as an experimental measure, to see whether the rules could not be worked more satisfactorily. Several thousands of rupees had by this time been spent on this account. When the present Dewan assumed charge of his office, this subject naturally attracted his attention. Having worked in the British Districts where survey and L. R. M. operations are going on, he was

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greatly interested in improving matters. Conferences and consultations were held, and, as a result, these Assistant Tahsildars were appointed.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will the member be prepared to state whether the L. R. M. staff as a separate department has not been abolished in British India?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: I shall deal with that question in due course. The L. R. M. rules were modified under the revised scheme and the old taluk surveyors were replaced by the present Assistant Tahsildars. What was the necessity for creating them is a question which the House might naturally ask. The answer is very simple. Nothing substantial was done by the surveyors. Things were drifting into confusion. All of you know very well that there were loud complaints regarding the omission of several names in the Legislative Council electoral rolls. There were repeated representations from members in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that *porambokes* were being encroached upon with impunity. The interpellations of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai regarding the number of tank-beds encroached upon and the reference of my friend, Mr. A. Govinda Menon, to the encroachments on river channels clearly reflect the public feeling in the matter of these encroachments.

It was thought desirable to select qualified men, mostly graduates, to give them a special training in chain and theodolite survey, and to appoint them to bring up the land records work. A large staff of accountants and peons, both permanent and temporary, work under these officers. The Assistant Tahsildars have to check, verify and control the work of these accountants. No doubt, at an early stage after their appointment it was felt that their work did not come up to the mark, and the Dewan in his address at the last session of the Popular Assembly had occasion to remark that it was unsatisfactory. That was owing to initial difficulties. Since then there has been a tangible improvement and everywhere the work is now in full swing.

Now, Sir, I shall give an account of the work turned out by the Assistant Tahsildars, who are executive assistants to the Tahsildars. The work of the Assistant Tahsildars consists of (1) the inspection of the work of the accountants (10 in each taluk on an average) detailed for L. R. M. work, of the encroachments detected, and of the verification of the original survey boundaries of *porambokes*; (2) the enquiry and disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases; (3) the checking on the ground of the subdivisions surveyed on account of *pokuvaravu* and *puduval* registry; (4) the checking of the writing up of the B. Register (supplement to the Settlement Register) which is intended to be a complete and up-to-date record of the changes that have taken place in the holdings in every respect; and (5) the removal of objectionable encroachments.

Unlike the old taluk surveyors, the Assistant Tahsildars are invested with powers under the Survey and Boundaries Regulation also. During the first nine months of 1097, the Assistant Tahsildars have disposed of, in addition to the work of controlling and supervising the work of the L. R. M. staff, 10,114 *pokkuvaravu* cases, contested and involving subdivisions. They have also inspected, verified and prepared the records

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[Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar.]

for 3,038 *puduval* cases. The revenue that has accrued to Government as a result of the work of the L. R. M. staff came to Rs. 99,848 in 1096 and Rs. 1,28,454 in the first ten months of 1097. In a large number of cases where eviction was ordered in the interests of the public, the Assistant Tahsildars have carried out the orders personally. Several hundred cases were pending in each taluk and these cases are gradually receiving the attention of the Assistant Tahsildars. I may assure the House that the work done by this new class of officers is very large in volume and considerably more than that of the surveyors of old, not to speak of the better quality of the work turned out by the former. Between the years 1083 and 1089, soon after the L. R. M. staff was organised under the old order of things, the total number of *porambokе* cases dealt with was 7,186. But during 1096 and during the first ten months of 1097, as many as 11,334 cases have been dealt with.

It was asked by some members with whom I had the advantage of discussing this question outside the House whether all this revenue was not obtained by fleecing the land-holders. Certainly not. No doubt, in individual cases hardship might have been caused; but such cases of hardship are inevitable in working a large scheme, especially in the beginning. Ample provision exists for redress by way of appeals and revisions, and whenever any complaint has come to my notice, I have personally granted relief. I can see from the appeal decisions in the Huzur Office that encroachments on *porambokes* are being dealt with in a liberal spirit there also.

No one will say that Government land which should be reserved for public use should be allowed to be encroached upon. I have now placed all the facts and figures before the House and it is for the House to judge whether this class of officers should be continued or not.

A few words on the last point referred to by me. We have made an earnest attempt, through a better agency, to bring up the land records and clear the arrears of past years accumulating in the taluk offices. It is no doubt true that, as complained by some of the members, there were cases of hardship caused in working some of the rules, especially those relating to prohibitory assessment. But, as I told you on Tuesday last, these rules have been recently revised. Under the new rules, dated the 18th July, 1922, prohibitory assessment should, in no case, exceed five times the ordinary rate of assessment and it should be imposed only on land and not on the trees standing thereon. Back arrears of assessment on the land, whether ordinary or prohibitory, shall, in no case, be recovered for more than five years, while, under the old rules, back arrears might be recovered for the whole period of occupation and prohibitory assessment imposed not only on the land, but also on the trees standing on the same. The ordinary rates of assessment to be charged under the old rules have also been reduced to the settlement rates in the new rules. The rates of assessment are to be fixed on the basis of the schedule of settlement rates, the whole of the paddy assessment being commuted into money at eleven chackrams per *para*.

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MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I wish to know whether the L. R. M. establishment was not abolished in British India.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: The land records establishment was abolished in British India, because the supervising staff was inadequate. There was only one Land Records Tahsildar there for a whole district. Above the Land Records Tahsildar there was a Land Records Superintendent in charge of a group of districts. The system in force there required that a single officer should work in an area comprising, on an average, about 8,000 square miles. It is patent that no adequate supervision could be secured under such circumstances. The agency we have here is that of the Assistant Tahsildars who are most of them graduates with a special training in survey and drawing a decent salary. The jurisdiction allotted to them is circumscribed within convenient limits and the method of work is so regulated as to secure the highest efficiency. It is proposed to retain only 25 Assistant Tahsildars, no such officer being allowed to the five lighter taluks. All the initial difficulties incidental to the working of a new and comprehensive scheme have been now overcome and the work is making satisfactory progress. If the special accountants and chainmen be kept on for some time more under proper supervision, it is expected that our land records will be brought up to date. This will be the best means of avoiding a considerable amount of expenditure which will have, of necessity, to be incurred when resettlement operations are commenced. If we abolish the Assistant Tahsildars, we shall have to restore the old taluk surveyors with their pay increased, and depend upon the proverthikars in the last resort. The difference in the cost will only be about Rs. 8,000 in that case, and it is for the House to judge whether it should retain the Assistant Tahsildars or revert to the old and effete system of the taluk surveyor, which system gave plenty of scope for abuse in the past. If we abolish the Assistant Tahsildar, we may temporarily save, not Rs. 33,000 as anticipated by some, but only the difference betwen the salary of the taluk surveyors and the Assistant Tahsildars, which is about Rs. 8,000. We shall also have to appoint or designate some officer as Deputy Tahsildar to hold treasury charge for small periods and generally to assist the Tahsildars. It is for the House to choose the right alternative. The decision of this issue is going to affect the future of a very important branch of administration in which every one of us in this House is intimately interested.

It has been said that the Tahsildars are now free from magisterial and Devaswom work and that it is possible for them to do more revenue work and attend to the land records work also. They have still a multifarious variety of duties to do, though no doubt they may have more time than before for revenue work. The disposal of revenue cases, and in the case of some Tahsildars, magisterial cases also, treasury work, income-tax work, collection work, and the general administration work of the taluk will not enable the Tahsildar without some assistance to attend to the land records maintenance work as well, especially now when that work is so much in arrears, owing to the incomplete conditon of land records. I shall not be surprised if we are even now

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[The President.]

losing annually several thousands of rupees out of the land revenue which is legitimately due to the State. In the light of these facts, I appeal to the other side of the House once again to take a dispassionate view of the whole situation, consider all aspects of the question and arrive at a decision which will be conducive both to the best interests of the country and the efficient discharge of land revenue work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, the Land Revenue Commissioner has given the reasons for creating the Assistant Thasildars and explained why they should be retained. The main functions of the Assistant Tahsildar seem to relate to the maintenance of land records. No doubt, land records maintenance work has been rather in a muddled condition; but the reasons therefor, as will be seen from the G. O. on the subject, were that the Tahsildar is an officer burdened with multifarious duties and is not in a position to exercise an efficient check over the work of the accountants and taluk surveyors who are directly responsible for the maintenance of land records under the existing system. It is also urged that the village staff is inadequate for the purpose But as a matter of fact, after about a year of their entering upon their duties, we find a pronouncem ent by the Head of the Administration in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly Address of 1097 to the following effect:

"They (Government) cannot help animadverting on the lack of enthusiasm for field work evinced by the average Assistant Tahsildar in spite of his youth, education and the improved prospects that his training holds out for him, and the want of interest in the work of the Assistant Tahsildar which has been a marked feature of the average Tahsildar."

In regard to the primary function that was expected of the Assistant Tahsildar, he has failed. That is but natural. A graduate could not certainly be expected to do the duties of a taluk surveyor trained in the department for 10 or 12 years. So far as efficiency is concerned, we find that the Assistant Tahsildars have not rendered much help to Government. So far as revenue is concerned, an appreciable increase was anticipated; but we do not find that there has been any substantial increase in the revenue. I myself had sent up certain questions with reference to these matters. But the Land Revenue Commissioner has not yet found time to give me the answers. They would have been very useful in the present discussion.

PRESIDENT: May I say that, if members want information in regard to any matter, they should write to the Government and not to subordinate officers?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, as a matter of fact, I interpellated the Government with a view to elicit the information twelve clear days ago as provided for by the rules.

PRESIDENT: The interpellations are being answered batch by by batch. We cannot answer, on any particular day, all the questions asked.

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MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: If those answers had been given to-day, they would have practically cleared the ground to a very large extent. To revert to my arguments, from the Government point of view, at any rate so far as these Assistant Tahsildars are concerned, they do not appear to have realised the expectations formed of them. Whatever may be the justification for the creation of Assistant Tahsildars in view of the work of the ordinary Tahsildars in olden days, there is now no justification for the continuance of these officers as the magisterial and Devaswom functions of the Tahsildars have been taken away from them. In regard to the functions relating to the Tahsildars, I find from the G. O. of 1914 and those of previous years that the Tahsildar has to do all the L. R. M. work. His culpable negligence during so many years in the past has necessitated this wastage of public money. Hereafter he ought to be told that, since several of his functions have now been taken away, he ought to be purely a land revenue officer. I therefore urge that there is overlapping of duties in the case of these two classes of officers, that there is no more need for the retention of Assistant Tahsildars and that this allotment pre-eminently deserves a cut.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, the desire on the part of this side of the House for effecting retrenchment is perfectly legitimate. Unfortunately, the system of recruitment to the public service in Travancore, in the Land Revenue Department as well as in other departments, has been practically of a permanent nature, right from the very outset, and I do not believe that my friends on this side of the House seriously contend that all these graduates who have been recruited on a permanent basis should be disbanded or turned out forthwith. Apparently the conviction is growing in the minds of the non-official members that, in view of the lightening of the work of the Tahsildars, there is scope for effecting some retrenchment in the number of Assistant Tahsildars. I myself am not satisfied that they could be completely disbanded and that, in their place, the old taluk surveyors could be put in again. So far as my friend Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai suggested a return to the old order of things, I am certainly against it. As I submitted, my friends on this side of the House do not seriously contend, at any rate so far as I understand them, that the entire staff ought to be disbanded. Till now, heads of departments have not been responsible to the representatives of the people with regard to public expenditure. For the first time that statutory right is being now conferred on this Council, and I daresay that my friends on this side of the House do not intend to be hypercritical in the examination of the details of expenditure proposed to be incurred during the coming year. Heads of departments till now have been spending money,—I would not say in an irresponsible manner,—but they have been spending it with one idea before them, *viz.*, that of securing what, according to them, would be the maximum efficiency in the conduct of public work. My submission is that the quantum of efficiency that every Government should aim at must be efficiency consistent with financial solvency. I daresay that, hereafter at any rate, heads of departments will realise that they owe a duty to the Council in preparing their budgets of expenditure for succeeding years and in

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

administering that duty right from the commencement of the next Malabar year more than ordinary care will be exercised by them in examining in detail the different items of expenditure for which their respective departments will be responsible. In that view of the case it would be undesirable, I mean at the outset of the career of this Council, to press for the acceptance of a motion that would prejudicially affect a very large class of public servants just at the beginning of their public life. In view of that aspect of the case, I oppose the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, it is a happy augury for the good feeling between the two sections of this House that prominent officials like the Commissioner of Land Revenue and Income-tax should adopt a policy of conciliation. He has referred in appealing language to the complaints relating to the voters' lists, the encouragement given by Government in the matter of converting tank-beds into paddy fields, the fleecing of land-holders by low-paid subordinates, the fact that most of our Assistant Tahsildars are graduates, and to some other circumstances which will persuade the House to give a verdict in favour of the retention of the Assistant Tahsildars. I should congratulate Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar on the very able manner in which he has placed the facts before the House. I should also refer, in passing, to the attempt on the part of Mr. Krishna Aiyangar, the Deputy President, to effect a compromise between the opinions of the officials and the non-officials. I must, however, mention that it is too early now for a compromise of this nature, because we are still at the discussion of general principles. The complaints about the defects in the land revenue administration and the maintenance of land records are not new in Travancore. I would refer to the language used by Mr. Ramiengar, one of our able Dewans, in 1058 M. E. Mr. Ramaiengar said:

"We have at present no correct record of the extent of land; no classification of soils; no systematic assessment; no register of titles; not even a complete rent-roll or list of land-holders. Such accounts as do exist are incomplete and necessarily unreliable, being records not of any regular survey, made by trained and trustworthy agency, but at best only of rough measurements, made in a defective manner, by men ignorant of any correct methods of measuring and under no proper control."

A vigorous policy was pursued by several of our eminent Dewans; but, Sir, we find that, as soon as a Dewan takes charge of the administration, he regrets the mistakes committed by the previous administrations. Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C. I. E., Sir P. Rajagopalachari, and others expressed that opinion, and the present Dewan has also spoken in the same strain in his opening address to the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assemby in 1096. I shall not discuss this matter in any detail; but I have to point out that our Dewans, and particularly those who are new to Travancore, are seen to accept the sentiments expressed by the poet:

"Of old things all are over-old;
Of good things none are good enough;
We'll show we can help to frame
A world of other stuff."

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I am certainly prepared to admit that they had been actuated by the very best of motives and by the best interests of the country. My only complaint is that the work so far done has not been satisfactory. I would congratulate the Government on trying to secure the effective and proper maintenance of land records; but the grounds for the retention of Assistant Tahsildars made out on behalf of the Government are not adequate. Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar has referred to the fact that the Assistant Tahsildars are mostly graduates; I should consider that this is just the reason why the system should be changed, because surveying is not a work in which a graduate would excel. In a small State like Travancore where there is no proper encouragement for efficient work in the Survey Department, the Assistant Tahsildar's ambition would always be directed towards the higher chair of the Tahsildar, and he would always be waiting for an opportunity to become a Tahsildar and to forget all about survey work in course of time. My suggestion is that, before the Government are advised to keep on to this policy, a thorough examination should be made of the system in vogue comparing its results with those of the work done before, and that, if there is any defect, it should be removed. There is a certain amount of feeling in this country that these Assistant Tahsildars are not doing proper work. But, in the light of the statement made by Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar before the House, I do not propose to say anything further on that point at present. We have to wait for some time more and let us accept the views of the Government for the time being.

I may tell you, Sir, that on this side of the House there is no distrust of officials. We want officials to have all the powers necessary for the conduct of work. All that we want is that the officials should evince a greater desire to get work out of their subordinates and that they should do their own work more efficiently.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Sir, I certainly think that it will be desirable in the interest of these young graduates to retain them; but there is another thing also that we have to consider and that is the interest of the men with the plough and the spade. The cost that the Assistant Tahsildars would entail the State is about Rs. 30,000 per annum, while, with the allowances which these officers draw, the amount would come to about Rs. 50,000. So, before considering the interests of these men—

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: The figures that the member gives are not very accurate.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: They are only rough figures; and so before considering the interests of these men we should consider the interests of the man who pays the tax. Then coming to the explanation offered by the Land Revenue Commissioner, I must say that it is entirely one-sided. He refers to the amount of work that is done by the Assistant Tahsildars. He does not refer to the fact that the Tahsildars, whose hands were full at one time, are now free owing to their having been divested of Devaswom and magisterial functions.

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[Mr. C. J Curien.]

I do not see any reason why the Tahsildars should not be made to do the work of the Assistant Tahsildars also along with their other duties. Reference was next made by the Land Revenue Commissioner to the electoral rolls being incomplete. It is certainly appealing to those who have suffered on account of the incomplete nature of the electoral rolls; but this question cannot be mixed up with the one now before the House. I very strongly support the motion put forward by my friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR: I support Mr. Krishna Aiyar's motion. I believe that these Assistant Tahsildars are a superfluity in the Land Revenue Department. I say it because I know it from my experience. I have had a talk with some of the Assistant Tahsildars. They tell me that, if the Tahsildars are divested of their Devaswom and magisterial duties, they will have no adequate work. Well, Sir, thus they themselves admit that there will not be much of work for them in the future. I do not see any necessity for retaining them. It must not be understood that I have no sympathy for these young officers. I have great sympathy for them, but sympathy cannot count when we are discussing matters of finance. Formerly, Tahsildars were burdened with multifarious duties, and it was on that account that these Assistant Tahsildars were entertained. Till a few months back these Assistant Tahsildars were almost idle and this will be evident from the speech of the Dewan in the Assembly in 1097. So, if they are to be retained, they have to be retained only out of sympathy for them and not out of necessity.

MR. C. J. CURIEN: Sir, at the budget discussion on Monday last, I pointed out the desirability of doing away with the posts of Assistant Tahsildars, if their functions are to be confined only to the investigation of encroachments and the disposal of *poramboke* cases. I also stated that, as both an Assistant Tahsildar and a Deputy Tahsildar in one and the same office are needless, either one or the other of the posts should be abolished. Since then, I understand from the budget that the post of Deputy Tahsildar has been abolished. The Tahsildar being an officer who has almost always to be on circuit to supervise the field work of the *pakuthi* staff, it is impossible for him to attend to a most important item of work,—a work that will, if not carried out satisfactorily, affect the general public prejudicially,—I mean land records maintenance work. If my information is correct, the land records maintenance work of the whole State is in a most chaotic condition. In the present state of revenue and expenditure, Government may be anxious to start another settlement to increase the revenue. I can most emphatically state that, if a new settlement is undertaken before the land records of the State are brought into proper order, it will lead to inconceivable inconvenience, worry and trouble to the land-owning public, not to speak of endless litigation. Besides, it may swallow up the whole exchequer before the settlement work is completed

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As the Tahsildars are being overburdened with work, it is very essential that either the Assistant Tahsildar should be retained or another officer of the same status and executive power with any other nomenclature should be appointed to help the Tahsildar in the above work. I, therefore, oppose the motion of Mr. Krishna Aiyar.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF : Sir, a great deal has been said in this hall against the appointment of Assistant Tahsildars. The arguments advanced are that they are a bad lot and more of a nuisance than anything else, and that, in consideration of the fact that the Tahsildar has been divested of his magisterial and Devaswom functions, he has ample time now to devote to the duties apportioned to the Assistant Tahsildar. I thought that the members who advocated the abolition of the post had made out a good case, at least as far as the second argument is concerned, before I heard what the member on the other side had to say. The Land Revenue Commissioner has clearly explained the Tahsildar's and the Assistant Tahsildar's functions, and the great and urgent necessity of putting land revenue records in order and of bringing them up to date. A *laissez faire* policy and false economy are responsible for accumulation of work and confusion in the Land Revenue Department. Facts have to be squarely faced and everything set right at once; and I am glad that the Government have, at last, realised the serious situation. Some of the members have been giving us their bitter experience of the Assistant Tahsildar. I would give my experience of the proverthikar and the taluk surveyor. I found them to be blood-suckers. On the other hand, I had something to do with an Assistant Tahsildar—he is a Graduate in Arts and Law—and he did not think it *infra dig.* to take up the chain and measure disputed lands. In fact, I found him to be a gentleman and one who realised that labour, however low it might be considered by some people, was always honorable. One swallow, however, does not make a summer; and if other Assistant Tahsildars are not of the right sort, they should be given their *congè*, and better men appointed when new appointments are created. The greatest care should be taken to appoint really good men—men who can understand the view-point of the people and act civilly to them, and not those who, dressed in brief authority, act the God. It is my humble opinion that the Assistant Tahsildar is indispensable just now, and I, therefore, oppose the motion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: Sir, though I had the benefit of the learned speeches of Mr. Krishna Aiyangar and other members on this side of the House, I am not quite clear on certain points relating to the matter under discussion. One main question is whether the new Tahsildars we are going to have from the beginning of the next year, divested of their magisterial and Devaswom work, will not be able to do the work of the Assistant Tahsildars also. That is an important question which has to be decided before the question of the retention of Assistant Tahsildars is settled. Another point on which I would require enlightenment in this connection is as to subdivision and *pokkuvaravu* work. I understand, from what I have heard so far, that the main duties of these officers are

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

the subdivision work and the *pokkuvaravu* work ; and I understand that there is a good deal of arrears in these respects. I concede that it is highly necessary both for the Government and for the land-holder to have these arrears cleared up as early as possible. My only difficulty is whether these arrears could not be cleared by a temporary staff, instead of by a permanent staff of Assistant Tahsildars, that is to say, whether the staff could not be made temporary till those arrears are cleared. These two points are, in my opinion, important ones which require consideration, and I want a little more explanation from the official side on these points.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Krishna Pillai, could you enlighten him on these two points ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, it is true that most of the Tahsildars have just been divested of their magisterial and Devaswom functions; but, without the help of the Assistant Tahsildars, I do not think that the Tahsildars will be able to get through their work satisfactorily. The Tahsildar is a Treasury Officer under the Account Code, and he has to be in charge of the treasury at least ten days in a month. Besides treasury work, he has the income-tax work, work in connection with the inspection of Pakuthi Cutcherries, the disposal of various revenue cases and also the general supervision of the land records maintenance work—a work which requires very close supervision. There is a large staff of accountants working in the field ; and unless their work is thoroughly scrutinised, there is no chance of an adequate outturn being realised. It is true that the Head of the Administration characterised the work of the Assistant Tahsildar during 1096 as unsatisfactory and remarked that it was not up to the mark. That was because the work had been newly started and the Assistant Tahsildars were just feeling their way. There was also another circumstance which then hampered the progress of the L. R. M. work, *viz.*, the absence of a superior officer of the Survey Department to check and control the work of the Assistant Tahsildars in the field. Under the revised scheme sanctioned by the Government, the Assistant Superintendent of Survey has been put in exclusive charge of the work and it would be possible for him to devote adequate attention to the work of the Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI : Am I to understand that the Tahsildars will have absolutely no control over the Assistant Tahsildars ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI : Certainly not. The Assistant Tahsildars will, of course, be under the administrative control of the Tahsildars. The control of the Assistant Superintendent of Survey will be confined to the technical portion of the Assistant Tahsildar's work. I may mention that the Assistant Tahsildars are not a real addition to the revenue staff of the taluk. So far as the survey work

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is concerned, they take the place of the old taluk surveyors. The surveyors were mostly men without any general educational qualifications. On the other hand, the Assistant Tahsildars, with a few exceptions, are graduates who have been given training in chain and theodolite survey. I am sure that the House will agree that the Assistant Tahsildars are decidedly a better type of officers than the taluk surveyors. It would be a mistake to revert to the old system of taluk surveyors. The House knows what sort of men the taluk surveyors were. Mr. Hoogewerf has been reciting his experiences of taluk surveyors. The Assistant Tahsildars are in every way superior to the taluk surveyors and fit to be promoted later on as Tahsildars. The complaint about the Tahsildars is that they do not do much field-work and that their knowledge of survey is inadequate.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is not the survey training the same so far as the Tahsildars and the Assistant Tahsildars are concerned?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Not exactly. The Assistant Tahsildars are mostly engaged in survey work, so that they get a better experience of the technical portion of it. I may also mention in this connection that it is not in contemplation to keep the Assistant Tahsildars in the permanent *cadre*. They are meant to work off the arrears of the L. R. M. work; and, as soon as the arrears are cleared, it might be possible to dispense with their services.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Mr. Hoogewerf said that the surveyors knew the work of the Assistant Tahsildars. If there are honest and able surveyors, can they not be appointed Assistant Tahsildars?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: It is not the question of honesty alone. There are several other circumstances that have to be taken into consideration.

MR. M. RAJA RAJA VARMA: Sir, there seems to exist a great deal of misconception regarding the Assistant Tahsildars. Much of it, I am sure, has been removed by what has been said by my friend Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar and also by some other members on this side of the House. It is now conceded that the work that is being done by the Assistant Tahsildars is not of a light character as was probably thought at the beginning. They really do very serious work. I wish to touch only upon questions that have been brought forward in the course of the present discussion. It has been asked why, when the Tahsildars are divested of their magisterial and Devaswom functions, they should not themselves attend to the land records maintenance work which the Assistant Tahsildars have been now appointed primarily to do. May I point out to the House that, though the Tahsildars will, no doubt, be able to do a portion of the L. R. M. work, it is an admitted fact that since the settlement, a great deal of work has been in arrears? Although Government had made more or less spasmodic efforts in previous years to clear off the arrears, it has not been possible for them to do

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

so with the normal staff. At one time, the Tahsildars were not trained in survey at all, and subsequently the training that they received was found to be insufficient; again, there were not accountants in sufficient numbers. Anyhow, the fact remains that much of the revenue work, work on account of land records maintenance, and *pokkuvaravu* and subdivision work has been in arrears for a long time; and so far as I know, at no time has any taluk been current as regards these items of work. The result is that ever since the settlement there has accumulated such a large volume of land records maintenance work that, even supposing that we put the Tahsildar to work for all the twenty-four hours of the day, he will not be able to finish this work along with his current duties. If at this stage the Assistant Tahsildar is taken away, the result would be hopeless confusion. That is one point that I wish to bring to the notice of this House. Without an officer like the Assistant Tahsildar specially trained for this kind of work, the Tahsildar will not be able to clear the large volume of arrears that has accumulated since the last settlement. Of course, there is no question as to whether land records should be brought up to date. That is necessary for the Government as well as for the land-holders themselves. The detection and removal of encroachments on communal lands and other *poramboke*s is essential for Government, as also for the security of the holdings. Complaints are very often made that waterways, etc., are being encroached upon by squatters; we have heard such complaints in the Assembly on very many occasions, and unless officers are appointed to detect and remove these encroachments, it will not be possible for the Tahsildars to satisfactorily attend to that kind of work. Hence I think it will be clear to every one that the Tahsildar, even though divested of his Devaswom and magisterial work, will not, as I said already, be able to clear the arrears that have accumulated since 1082.

Another point for consideration is whether the work of these Assistant Tahsildars is satisfactory. In regard to this, I may say that, although at the beginning their work was slow, it has since considerably improved. I understand that they have brought in a good deal of revenue, something like Rs. 2 lakhs, while the expenditure incurred on them is only about a lakh of rupees. There is also another point which I should like to bring to the notice of the House. Many gentlemen are, I believe, agreed as to the necessity of a resurvey before the next settlement. If the Assistant Tahsildars are to do the L. R. M. work, it may be possible to minimise expenditure on the resurvey which, as we all know, will cost enormously. Nedumangad is an instance of what such resurvey would cost. With these observations, I would oppose the motion.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, it is only three days ago that I listened carefully to a number of speeches in this very hall when all my friends on this side of the House were unanimous about the abolition of the post of Assistant Tahsildars.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF: I was not among them.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: With very few exceptions all of us were unanimous on that point; and harassing tales were then told about the Assistant Tahsildars. I do not know if anything has since elapsed during these days for us to change our opinions. I have now carefully listened to the speeches of the members on the other side. About the origin of the Assistant Tahsildars there cannot be much doubt. Land records maintenance work was in a chaotic condition. But when we think of the Assistant Tahsildars, we cannot forget the agitation that was conducted in the name of the twenty-six lakhs of His Highness the Maha Raja's subjects to satisfy whom partly these Assistant Tahsildars were appointed. Now, with the separation of the Devaswom from the Revenue Department, I think that would not be a ground for retaining these men.

From what I see, the necessity for retaining these officers appears to be *firstly*, the importance of the land records maintenance work; *secondly*, the inability of the Tahsildar to attend to this work although he is divested of his magisterial and Devaswom duties; and *thirdly*, that the cost of retaining these men, as Mr. Raja Raja Varma said, is very small. Speaking of the last argument, however small the sum may be, that is no argument to retain a staff, if it is not found necessary in the interests of the public. And as to the conduct of the Tahsildars in allowing this matter (land records maintenance work) to drift into its present chaotic condition, I am of opinion that it was due as much to the negligence on the part of the Tahsildars as to the indifference of the Dewan Peishkars in controlling and checking them. I may cite an instance. An encroachment was pointed out to a Tahsildar by me. Almost every day the Tahsildar plays tennis within a hundred yards of that encroachment. But even to-day, I can assure you, Sir, that that encroachment is there and that the Tahsildar has taken no action. That kind of indifference alone can account for the chaotic condition into which the land records maintenance work has drifted. It is stated that in British India there is only one Inspector for every taluk which measures about 600 square miles. Now taking the average area of a taluk in Travancore, we find that it is only about 143 square miles, the extent of some taluks being even 100 square miles. I wish to know from the Land Revenue Commissioner if it is not possible, even if he wishes to retain the Assistant Tahsildars, to curtail their number by at least one-third.

Of course it is not our object to jeopardise the Government in the matter of the management of the Land Revenue Department. This is the first time we get the power to vote on demands, and it is our earnest desire that, in submitting the budget with the reductions or omissions that we might make out, the Dewan should be given no opportunity of declaring that the demands we have so omitted or reduced are necessary for discharging the responsibilities of the Government, so as to indicate that we are in any way less responsible than the Government themselves. Under these circumstances, I wish to know from the Land Revenue

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[Mr. V. Subba Aiyar.]

Commissioner whether he could not meet us half-way and inform the House whether he would not be satisfied with a lesser number of these officers and that for a fixed period.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, I shall say a few words with reference to the duties of the Tahsildars. Even though the Devaswom and magisterial functions are taken away from the Tahsildar, he will still have ample work to do. In the first place, he has the treasury duty which is one of the most important functions attached to his office. His second duty is the general supervision of the taluk. Then there is the duty connected with the disposal of *puduvals*. There are ever so many other things he has to look into. He has responsible work to do under the Agricultural Loans Regulation, the Income-tax Regulation, the Vital Statistics Regulation and a host of other Regulations. Besides these, he may at any time be asked to go to any place for attending to the work connected with the reception of distinguished State guests. As the late Dewan, Mr. Krishnan Nair, observed in the Madras Legislative Council, he may be asked to report upon snakes, or upon the political situation, so that he has got a great deal of outdoor work to do and his work is never confined to the Taluk Cutcherry alone. Even in his office, the Treasury Manual and the Account Code impose certain restrictions on him. As Treasury Officer, he has to check and verify every bill presented for encashment. When the Tahsildar is away, who will be the Treasury officer is not clear, because the post of the Deputy Tahsildar has been abolished. I heard Mr. Krishna Aiyar saying that the Deputy Tahsildar is there and that there is only a change in name. It is not so. The head accountant has to keep accounts and the head clerk has to look after the correspondence work. If the Tahsildar is away, the treasury work may have to be looked into by the Assistant Tahsildar. I may state here that I have had some knowledge of treasury management in connection with the recent treasury defalcation case at Kottayam. It was then found that the Tahsildar and the Deputy Tahsildar were away and that the head accountant alone was in charge of the treasury, with the result that thousands of rupees were paid to a man who had no claim for that amount. The Account Code and the Treasury Manual insist upon two officers for treasury work. Thus, it will be seen that the Assistant Tahsildar may be necessary for looking after the treasury work, when the Tahsildar is away from head-quarters. Again, in regard to the Survey and Boundaries Regulation recently passed, an officer has to be empowered under that Regulation to go into the details regarding the disputes concerning land, etc., and to pronounce judgment. The party aggrieved by the decisions is permitted, under the Regulation, to prefer an appeal and ultimately to file a civil suit against the appellate decision. In such cases, it is necessary that a responsible officer should, in fairness to the party concerned, investigate the matter. If the Assistant Tahsildar, who is a man of status, is put in charge of the work, he will do the work properly. I believe that it is within the

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knowledge of the members that every one of us is much concerned with 'divide plans.' The Assistant Tahsildar's function is to find out whether there is any inaccurate measurement of the areas subdivided. I believe that, in cases of the kind, if a particular officer who has to exercise judicial functions under a particular Regulation is to be appointed, he ought to be a man of status and not the surveyor who receives a pay of Rs. 30 or Rs. 40, who has no general educational qualification worth the name, and, according to some members who have already spoken, whose honesty is not above suspicion. I believe that all my friends on the other side will agree in saying that a graduate should be expected to be, and I believe he is, more honest than an ordinary surveyor. That being the case, there is every necessity for a graduate being put in there. The surveyor, if he is a graduate, will command greater confidence and greater respect than others. I heard a remark that the graduates are not very particular about survey and that they think that it is *infra dig.* to attend to field work. If so, I am sorry for them. If a man wants to rise, he must go to the field and see that he knows everything about survey. The idle man cannot get on in this world. It is the idle man that has no work, but an active man has always work. I would refer Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai to the I. C. S. men in British India who actually do field work and take great pleasure in doing it. They do not consider it *infra dig.* to attend to field work. With these words, I beg to oppose the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, the arguments advanced from the official benches for the retention of the whole body of the Assistant Tahsildars are not convincing. These Assistant Tahsildars were brought into existence at a time when all the items of work now appertaining to the Tahsildars and falling within the scope of their activities used to exist, except two, *viz.*, increased attention to work in treasuries and probably attention in connection with income-tax work. Now, since the appointment of the Assistant Tahsildars came into effect, much important work which used originally to fall to the share of the Tahsildars has been taken away from them, *i. e.*, their work as magistrates and superintendents of Devaswoms.

Now the question that naturally arises in this connection is whether the additional items of work in connection with income-tax and probably the closer attention which is required of the Tahsildar in connection with the treasuries,—whether these would be a sufficient counterpoise for the work that has already been taken away from them. At any rate, one thing is clear. The original object with which these Assistant Tahsildars were created not having undergone any change, the relief since afforded to the Tahsildars must result in a re-adjustment of the work of the Assistant Tahsildars. So, the proposition which has the support of some friends on this side of the House, *viz.*, that there must be a re-arrangement of the work of the Assistant Tahsildars in view of the reduction of the Tahsildars' work, appears quite convincing. In view of the altered circumstances, at least a curtailment in the number of the Assistant Tahsildars is deemed absolutely necessary.

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[Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai.]

The argument advanced by Mr. Krishna Aiyangar seems after all to be not an abiding argument, for the Chief Secretary to Government says that Government never intended these Assistant Tahsildars to be permanent officers. So, if not to-morrow, at some other later date, the Assistant Tahsildars will have to be absorbed into the permanent *cadre* or will have to be sent about their business. That being the case, the arguments pressed by some of my friends on the other side are not convincing, since, after all, it is only a question of time.

There was no other serious argument advanced in this connection. At any rate, it is necessary to reconsider the question. The appointment of the Assistant Tahsildars was made at a time when the Tahsildars were burdened with a number of other duties. There has been a reduction in the number of these duties; but no duty has been newly imposed upon them equivalent to those that have been taken away. This argument is sufficient to reconsider the present position.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, there is a general impression shared not only by the members of this House, but by the general public, that the appointment of the Assistant Tahsildar has been a source of unmixed evil. The kind of persons chosen for the post may be partly responsible for bringing about this great unpopularity in respect of their appointment. The so-called twenty-six lakhs of people have no reason to be particularly enamoured of the class of persons appointed, because, as I understand, the great majority of the Assistant Tahsildars do not belong to the communities supposed to be represented by those twenty-six lakhs. The way in which these Assistant Tahsildars have been performing their duties has not been commendable. Throughout the country, there have been serious complaints of persecution of the people, of unconscionable fines imposed and of penalties enforced by them. From everywhere people have been hearing tales of experience of difficulties on account of the way in which these Assistant Tahsildars have been conducting their operations. So, in common with several of the members of this House, I had a predisposition against these officers when I came to the House; but I never wanted to prevent any new source of information or light from penetrating into my head regarding the usefulness of this institution. Now, we have had some talk about this matter. I have seen the new rules introduced by Government and promulgated in the Gazette which, I think, may remove the most conspicuous among the disadvantages complained of. For example, the Assistant Tahsildars have been going about and collecting very heavy penal assessment for trees standing on unauthorised encroachments. I understand that the rule about imposing penal assessments has been completely abrogated, however large the number of trees standing on *poramboke* encroachments. It is universally admitted that our land records maintenance work has been in great confusion. There has been a positive assurance that, if the system is given a trial, we shall be saved from a great deal of trouble in our next settlement. I for one am quite prepared to wait and see how far with a better understanding

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these Assistant Tahsildars will be able to justify their appointments. If they are not able to improve by the experience they have gained and by the rules now introduced, the remedy lies in our own hands and we might avail ourselves of the earliest opportunity to mark our disapproval of the way in which they are benefiting by lapse of time and better experience. I, therefore, think it only fit and proper to give them a trial for at least a year to see the promise about the benefits which the country is likely to realise. After all, the cost is not prohibitive. It is only a matter of Rs. 30,000 for the staff, and I am told that, inclusive of the establishment charges, the expense is about a lakh of rupees. The work of the Assistant Tahsildars, it is said, has brought nearly two lakhs of rupees. Under the circumstances, I for one am for giving the system a trial. With these words, I oppose the motion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Sir, ഇപ്പോൾ നടന്നുവരുന്ന ജോലിയുടെ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. പോക്കുവരവ്, സബ്ഡിവിഷൻ, പുറംപോക്ക് ഈ ജോലികൾ പ്രകൃതി ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു ശരിയായി നടത്തുന്നതിനോ അവയെ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്ക് വേണ്ട പോലെ മേൽ പരിശോധന നടത്തുന്നതിനോ സാധിക്കയില്ലെന്നുള്ള കാരണത്താലാണ് അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ സൃഷ്ടിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. താലൂക്ക് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ ജോലികളെ ലഘൂകരിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനു നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികളുടെ മേലധികാരം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു സംബ്അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് സൂപ്രഡേണ്ടിനാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ രണ്ടു മേലധികാരികളുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനു രണ്ടുപേർക്കും തൃപ്തികരമായ വിധം വേലചെയ്വാൻ സാധിക്കയോ, വേലചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിവരികയോ ഇല്ല. പുതുവൽ കേസുകൾ നോക്കാത്തതിനെ പറ്റി അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരോട് ചോദ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ പുറംപോക്കുകേസ്സുകൾ നോക്കാൻ പോയതായി അദ്ദേഹം സമാധാനം പറയും. പുതുവൽ കേസ്സുകൾ നോക്കാൻ പോയതുകൊണ്ടു പുറംപോക്കു കേസ്സുകളിൽ ഒപ്പിടുവാൻ ഇടയായില്ലെന്നു മറ്റൊരു അവസരത്തിൽ സമാധാനം പറയാം. പുതുവൽ, പുറംപോക്ക് ഈ സംഗതികൾ നോക്കിയിരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു പോക്കുവരവിനെപ്പറ്റി ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലെന്നു വേറൊരവസരത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം സമാധാനം പറയും. അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് പ്രാസിഡിംഗിസിലെ താൽപര്യപ്രകാരം അവക്ക് വേലചെയ്വാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നുള്ളതിനു പുതുവൽ, പുറംപോക്ക് ഈ ഇനങ്ങളിൽ ൻസ് നിന്നും ൻ ഉ -ൽ എത്ര കുറവു വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതു കണക്കുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കുമ്പോൾ വ്യക്തമായി ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുന്നതാണ്. അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർക്കു രണ്ടു മേലധികാരികളുണ്ടായിരുന്നതിൽ നിന്നു അവരെ വിടുത്തി ഇപ്പോൾ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരുടെ വകുതിയിൽ മാത്രമാക്കിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും അതിനാൽ അവക്ക് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ മേലാൽ തൃപ്തികരമായി നടക്കുമെന്നും, അതിനാൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നും ചീഫ്സിക്രട്ടറി സമ്മുമ്പു പ്രസ്താവിക്കാനിടയായി. തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ മാസത്തിൽ ൨൦ ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ കുറയാതെ സക്കീട്ടു പോകേണ്ടതായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ ഡിപ്ടിതഹശീൽദാരന്മാരില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് ആ കാലങ്ങളിൽ അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശീൽദാരന്മാർ ഖജനാച്ചാർജ്ജുകൂടി വഹിക്കേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ആ ഉദ്യോഗം അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നും മിസ്റ്റർ. സുബ്ബയ്യർ ഇപ്പോൾ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ വ്യത്യസ്താഭിപ്രായങ്ങളിൽ ഏതിനെയാണ് സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. ഏതായാലും എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ ശരിയായി നടത്തുന്നതു അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നുള്ളതു ആരും സമ്മതിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

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[Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar.]

പലേ താലൂക്കുകളിലും സർവെയും സെറ്റിൽമെൻറും രണ്ടുപ്രത്യേകകാലങ്ങളിലാണ് നടത്തീട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇങ്ങനെ സർവെ കഴിഞ്ഞ സെറ്റിൽമെൻറിനു മുമ്പും പിമ്പും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള സബ്ഡിവിഷൻ അളന്നു തിരിച്ചു പ്ലാട്ടു ചെയ്തു സർവ്വെ റിക്കാർട്ടുകൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതാണ് എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലിയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശം. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികൾ ശരിയായി നടന്നു കിട്ടണമെങ്കിൽ ഒരു റീസർവ്വെ നടത്തുകയല്ലാതെ ഗത്യന്തരമുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഈ ജോലി നടത്തുന്നതിന് ഇപ്പോൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സിൽബന്ധികളെക്കൊണ്ടുസാധിക്കുന്നതല്ലെന്നുള്ളതിനും അവരെക്കൊണ്ടു റീസർവ്വെ നടത്തുന്ന പക്ഷം അതിനാലുണ്ടാകുവാനുള്ള കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകൾക്കും ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്കും നെടുമങ്ങാട്ടു താലൂക്കിലെ റീസർവ്വെ ഒരു ഉത്തമ ദൃഷ്ടാന്തമായി നിലക്കുന്നു. ഗവർൺമെൻറിനുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള ഈ പരിചയം കൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം എൽ. ആർ. എം. ജോലികളുടെ വ്യാപ്തിയെ കുറച്ചു അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശിൽദാരന്മാരുടെ ജോലി പുറംപോക്കു സർവ്വേയാക്കി ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുള്ളതു്. അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശിൽദാരന്മാർ ഇപ്പോൾ നിർവഹിച്ചു വരുന്ന ഈ പുറംപോക്കു സർവ്വെ തന്നെ ജനങ്ങളെ ഏതെല്ലാം നിലയിൽ സങ്കടപ്പെടുത്തിവരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളത് ഇവിടെ പറഞ്ഞറിയിക്കാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമുള്ളതല്ല. അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് തഹശിൽദാരന്മാരുടെ സൃഷ്ടിക്കു ഹേതുവായ ഉദ്ദേശങ്ങളും ഗവർൺമെൻറിനു സാധിച്ചു കിട്ടാതെയും, ആയതു ജനങ്ങളിൽ അസഹനീയമായ സങ്കടങ്ങൾക്കു കാരണമായും തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗത്തെ ഉടനെ തന്നെ നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്ത് അതിനാലുണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ദുർവ്യയത്തെ പരിഹരിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: As the matter has been discussed at sufficient length, I do not want to make any reply. However, I wish to ask a question. Will the Land Revenue Commissioner be pleased to give an assurance that these Assistant Tahsildars will be absorbed within a limited time?

PRESIDENT: He will give the information in his reply. I have to correct one statement made by Mr. Subba Aiyar. It is not the idea of Government to place these Assistant Tahsildars in charge of the treasury when the Tahsildar is on circuit. It is to meet that difficulty that we have now got a class of officers called head accountants. It is the idea of Government to utilise the services of Sub-Registrars or other officer of similar status to be incharge of the treasury along with these head accountants during the absence of the Tahsildar from his head-quarters

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Mr. President, before replying to the general questions raised, I shall answer some points on which information has been asked for. Mr. Nidiry said—

PRESIDENT: It will perhaps be proper to answer Mr. Krishna Aiyar's question first, *viz.*, whether you can give the House an assurance that the Assistant Tahsildars will be abolished as soon as the necessity for them ceases and whether you can indicate the period at the end of which you will be able to dispense with their services.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: I shall have to make a short premise before answering Mr. Krishna Aiyar's question directly. The Government have considered the question in all its aspects and they have reduced the Assistant Tahsildars to the smallest number possible. We began with one Assistant Tahsildar for

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each taluk. After some experience we were able to remove these officers from some of the lighter taluks, *e. g.*, Shencottah and Tovala. Then, there are the taluks of Peermade and Devicolam which stand on a different footing and which are also not going to have Assistant Tahsildars.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Will Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar be pleased to say who does the land records work in Shencottah and Tovala?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: The Tahsildar himself does it, because of the lightness of the work in these taluks. The post of Assistant Tahsildars is permanent; but if the members insist on it, when the whole work gets cleared, I think the Government will be prepared to reconsider the position.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, the Chief Secretary said that these posts were not intended to be permanent, but the Land Revenue Commissioner says that they are permanent.

PRESIDENT: I think the real intention is to treat them as permanent for the time being. There is nothing unchangeable. As Mr Mammen Mappillai says, when the time comes and the Government think that these officers are no longer necessary, they will be taken away and then this class of officers will disappear.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, can any assurance be given to the House as to whether these officers will be dispensed with when they are found unnecessary?

PRESIDENT: I think I can give that assurance on behalf of the Government.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: As for the period—

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, as for the period of the retention of these officers, I find from the last review of their work that more than 10,000 *puduval* cases and about 40,000 *pokkuvaravu* cases are pending in all these taluks together. I am not in a position to give any definite assurance as to when these cases will get finally disposed of. But I expect that, if the department is worked properly and under high pressure, the work may become current within at least two years. That is my expectation.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Sir, I believe my friends will be prepared to reconsider the position, if Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar assures us that these posts will become unnecessary within two years. On that assurance, I am prepared to withdraw my motion.

PRESIDENT: Well, I may tell the House that the intention of Government is not to keep the Assistant Tahsildars for ever. With a view to bring land records uptodate, these officers were appointed. I must mention to the House that land records form a living organism like any other human organism. But we could reduce this work to a reasonable proportion, if the Tahsildars and the provethikars—the permanent establishment—could be made to tackle the new cases after the

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arrears are cleared. There will then be no necessity for the retention of the Assistant Tahsildars. It is very difficult to fix the period; but I may give this assurance that Government will not retain these officers for one moment longer than they are really necessary. I am sorry I cannot give a more definite assurance. It is a matter that requires looking into. It is very probable that we may not require them for more than two years, but I do not think that it is fair to ask the Government to commit themselves to such a statement.

MR G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Have the Government any objection to treat these officers as temporary for a year and to take up the question again next year? I take it that the Government will have no objection.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: On that basis I am prepared to withdraw the motion.

The proposal having been accepted, the motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 5 to 7.

The following motions were not made:

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

5. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,91,736 for establishment by Rs. 22,500 (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars).

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

6. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,91,736 for establishment by Rs. 22,500 (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars).

MR. N. KUMARAN:

7. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,91,736 for establishment by Rs. 22,500 (abolition of Assistant Tahsildars).

Motion 8.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

8. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 28,000 for travelling allowances under Taluk Cutcherries—Allowances—by Rs. 9,000.

The original pay of the Assistant Tahsildars was Rs. 70 and they received an allowance of Rs. 30. Their pay is now proposed to be revised and fixed at Rs. 75-5/1-100 with a travelling allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem. I should like to know whether a salary of Rs. 70 per mensem as at present and an allowance of Rs. 30 will not suffice.

MR. V. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I second the motion.

MR. K ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Mr. President, in the discussion that took place a while ago, some members admitted that all these graduates consider it *infra dig.* to take the chain and measure fields. This aspect of the question was also considered by Government. There is a proposal now before the Government to lay down a rule under which all promotions in the Land Revenue Department should be given

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only to those who have served as Assistant Tahsildars. It is therefore proposed that these Assistant Tahsildars should be put on the same *cadre* as higher grade graduate clerks, *i. e.*, on Rs. 75-5/1-100 as in the Secretariat and other departments. As regards travelling allowance, these Assistant Tahsildars are compelled under the existing orders to be out in the villages for at least 20 days in the month and it is very necessary that they should be kept free from temptation and that they should not be made to depend on other persons for such things as their meals, etc. For this purpose, a T. A. of Rs. 30 is absolutely necessary. I, therefore, oppose the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, in view of the fact that the Assistant Tahsildars are to be temporarily entertained till the end of 1098, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 9.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

9. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,000 for law charges under Taluk Cutcherries—Supplies and Services and Contingencies—by Rs. 10,000.

It appears to me that the allotment admits of reduction by Rs. 10,000. But I wish to be informed as to what are the items that go under "law charges." The printed budget furnished to us does not give the details.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Several suits are preferred against the Government and some suits have to be preferred by the Government themselves. These law charges are intended to cover *vakalats* and vakils' fees and in some cases also sums decreed against the Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Now, the House has been informed by the Land Revenue Commissioner of the details of these charges. I do not know why vakils should be paid for conducting revenue cases when there are Sirkar Vakils in all the District Courts, who are generally in charge of Sirkar cases. It is also important to bear in mind that there is a good number of Sirkar Vakils in the High Court who also may be directed to look after the duties when exceptional difficulties arise. My suggestion, therefore, is that the expenditure under vakils' fees for the conduct of cases on behalf of the Government should not be allowed.

Nowadays it has become the fashion for various heads of departments and others to advise Government to contest doubtful claims in a court of law. So far as my experience goes, it is very rarely that Government comes out successful. The reason is not far to seek. The fault lies on the law officers of Government who are so numerous that their sense of responsibility is not commendable. Bad advice is frequently given, and as a result, when a party goes to the law court, the court adjudicates upon the claims in a proper manner and directs the cost to the successful party being paid by Government. This item

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of expenditure affords sufficient grounds for curtailment. In case the Land Revenue Commissioner is prepared to tell me what amount was disbursed last year under this head, I shall shape my motion accordingly.

PRESIDENT: The answer is in the budget itself—Rs. 16,888.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: But the specific items are not given there. Anyhow the matter requires scrutiny. It was with the object of placing these matters before the Council that I brought up this subject As further discussion is not necessary at present, I beg permission to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 10 and 11.

The following motions were not made:

MR. A GOVINDA MENON:

10. *To reduce the allotment of Rs 2,83,089 for Taluk Cutcherries by Rs. 33,000.*

MR T KUMARA PILLAI:

11. *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,83,089 for Taluk Cutcherries by Rs. 32,880.*

Motion 12.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Mr. President, I beg to make the following motion:

12. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,390 for temporary staff (clerks, etc.) under I F. Land Revenue—Land Records Establishment—Establishment—by Rs. 5,342.

Sir, my motion refers to the allotment for the temporary staff of clerks, accountants, typists, etc., provided for in the budget under the Land Records Superintendent. This provision seems to be new. Evidently one of the Assistant Superintendents of Survey has been put in as the Land Records Superintendent and a separate staff is provided for him. So far as I am able to gather from the budget, the intention of the Government seems to have been that, as far as the land records establishment is concerned, there should be a separate officer solely in charge of that work, directly responsible to the Government, and that he should have direct supervision over the Assistant Tahsildars and other subordinates of the Land Records Maintenance Department. I do not find any necessity for providing a separate establishment of this nature. The Chief Secretary was telling us that hitherto there had been a dual control and that it was proposed to do away with such control by the appointment of a Land Records Superintendent who would be in sole charge of the land records maintenance establishment. But when I questioned him whether the Tahsildar would have absolutely nothing to do with the Assistant Tahsildar in respect of his land records maintenance duty, he was not able to give such an assurance. On the other hand, it is not proposed to divest the Peishkars and Tahsildars of their functions

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regarding the supervision of land records maintenance work. If the Assistant Tahsildar is directly responsible only to the Land Records Superintendent and if he will have absolutely nothing to do with the Tahsildar or the Peishkar in respect of his land records maintenance work, I can understand the position now advocated. But it appears to me desirable that the Revenue Department alone should have the sole control over land records maintenance work, which for all practical purposes ought to be a matter pertaining to that department. That being the case, I do not see why there should be another control exercised by the Survey Superintendent. This is practically creating dual control. There is the Tahsildar above the Assistant Tahsildar and above him there is the Peishkar. If the Peishkar supervises the Tahsildar's work, and if the Tahsildar bestows some attention on the Assistant Tahsildar, his expert Assistant, it would be quite sufficient; and the Peishkar can generally supervise the work of the department. It was only in March, 1921, that the district charges on account of supervision of land records maintenance work were abolished in British India. Evidently our land records system was originally based on the British Indian system. There is no reason why we should continue the system here after its abolition in British India itself. There, the Revenue Member said that, as the matter is a very important one, the establishment should not be disturbed. It was, however, opposed by an overwhelming majority in the Council, who said that the ordinary Land Revenue Tahsildars should be able to attend to this work as well. So, I do not see any necessity for a separate establishment here as proposed.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I second the motion.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, I oppose the motion. Evidently, there has been some misunderstanding on the part of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. The Assistant Superintendent gives professional advice to the staff of Assistant Tahsildars, surveyors and accountants employed in land records maintenance work. He has been placed under the orders of the Land Revenue Commissioner, so that there is no duality of control. It is really the Land Revenue Commissioner who controls, as the superior officer, the working of the department, professional advice being given by the Assistant Superintendent of Survey who is placed in sole charge of that work. One other matter which Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai might remember is this. Land records maintenance *work* is not abolished in British India, but only its supervising staff. The Tahsildar is going on with it. As the President said, it is a living organism and it must go on so long as there are the subdivision of *porambokes* and other items of field work to be attended to. When Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai brings his next motion, I shall go into the details regarding the land records maintenance staff as a whole. These accountants and clerks who are given to the Superintendent have been found to be extremely necessary because he has to control a very large staff consisting of a large number of chainmen and others. He draws a very large amount of money under contingencies. He has to settle accounts with stone contractors. All the contingent

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bills come to him, and he has to check and pass them. In giving him an establishment, care has been taken to see that a portion of the establishment from the office of the Superintendent of Survey, over which he had control while he was attached to that department, has been transferred, and that the pay of this staff is not an additional charge. I do not know whether, in view of this explanation, Mr. Parameswaran Pillai would press his motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether, but for the separation of this department from the Survey office, the temporary staff would have been rendered necessary?

PRESIDENT: If it is not out of order, I think I shall be in a position to explain. The extra staff has been sanctioned to do office work. In connection with the field work that is being carried on by the Assistant Tahsildars, there is a good deal of mapping and plotting to be done. Large advances are given to the stone contractors for buying stones, and moneys have to be recovered from the *pattadars*. All these things have to be watched. There are two sets of advances, the survey advances and the land records maintenance advances. The Land Records Superintendent is responsible for the latter. He has to keep a staff to keep accounts and to make recoveries. Similarly, as I have already stated, there will be a good deal of mapping and plotting work to be done in connection with the field work. This establishment is intended to cope with all that work.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, in the light of the explanation just now given, I beg leave to withdraw the motion

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 13.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

13. To omit the allotment of Rs. 36,267 for temporary staff (accountants, etc.) under Land Records Establishment – Establishment.

It would appear that the taluk surveyors were originally assisting or rather supervising the work of the accountants in regard to land records maintenance work. They have been transferred to the Survey Department and I find them also provided for in the land records establishment. It was stated by the Land Revenue Commissioner sometime ago that the taluk establishment hereafter will have no taluk surveyors, but that the taluk surveyors have been absorbed in the Survey Department. On paper I find it so. I do not know why the surveyors are brought under the land records establishment, but for the fact that they are asked to do land records maintenance work.

I find from the G. O. on the subject relating to the Assistant Tahsildars that the refixing of theodolite stations has to be carried on by the taluk surveyors before they can be detailed for duty in connection with *puduval* survey. The original idea seems also to have been that they should be asked to do work for some six months, and that they should then demarcate *poramboke* portions and all that. Now, even for

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1098, I find the surveyors being provided for in the land records establishment, so much so that I do not know why after all we should have a separate temporary staff of 153 accountants, etc., provided for in the land records maintenance establishment. There are accountants in the taluk establishment itself who will be in a position to attend to these items of work as well. I know as a matter of fact that, on certain occasions, temporary special staff has been allotted for certain taluks, in order to attend to the additional duties that have been found necessary in regard to land records maintenance work. So far as the present conditions are concerned, the proverthikar and the accountant are expected to have a very good training in survey and there is also the Assistant Tahsildar to help them. With the accountants that they have and the land records establishment in addition, so much money as Rs. 32,500 should not be spent on the special staff. We have been talking much of economy and retrenchment on this side. I should consider that the only reasonable cut that we can make is that, as the Assistant Tahsildars have just been temporarily sanctioned, this special staff of accountants need not be maintained, so that I would move that the amount of Rs. 36,267 provided in the budget for this purpose be deleted.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: I second the motion.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. For the correct refixing of *porambokes*, it is necessary to have theodolite stations as they form the basis of further operations. This work was going on from Makaram 1096. The surveyors employed in this work have, till the end of Medam, verified 39,414 stations. 7,709 stones have to be refixed and the number verified comes to something like 43·6 per cent. It will be clear from this that they have planted a very large number of theodolite stones, put in 14,248 stones in place of the missing ones, and executed repairs to 7,349 stones. Of these again, 480 were fixed at Government cost as the ryots failed to do that work. The point that I have tried to elaborate is that these surveyors have a large volume of work to do, considering the large number of theodolite stones which are usually found missing everywhere. Now, provision has to be made for verifying 49,201 stones. This work is expected to be completed in 1098, after which the services of these surveyors will not be required for this purpose.

So far as the accountants are concerned, the normal staff of the *pakuthies* is not able to cope with the work. Actual experience has taught us that, if they are employed for land records work also, their normal work will suffer, and that the work in the *pakuthies* will in every respect deteriorate. So it has been found necessary to give to each *pakuthi* additional assistance by way of temporary accountants. I may give an account of what they have already done. The accountants employed on land records work have demarcated, up to the end of Medam 1097, 27,983 acres. An extent of 2,027 acres has also been surveyed for *puduval* registry. These figures will give you some idea of the work of the temporary and the permanent accountants together,

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Unless you employ the temporary accountants, land records work cannot be done. What we now do is to depute a batch of accountants in each taluk ranging from 8 to 12. They begin from one end of the taluk and finish all the subdivisions. For effective supervision the Assistant Tahsildar has to confine himself to a very limited area, and I may say that this *modus operandi* is the one best suited.

For the information of Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai and those who would like to be enlightened, I have brought a number of sketches which I would like to place before the House, so that they may see what sort of work these people do. They have to map all *porambokes* so that if there are any encroachments they can once for all be easily detected and dealt with, so that the ryot may not be harassed in future. As it is, we have no correct measurements of the *porambokes* themselves. We have got 2,16,100 *porambokes* yet remaining to be demarcated and mapped. For all this we require time.

Then as to the work that these accountants under the supervision of the Assistant Tahsildars are doing, I have also brought some other maps which will give a good deal of information. I shall place on the table three maps. One of them relates to the Katimamkulam lake. More than 100 acres of encroachments have been detected there and, when assigned, they are likely to bring in a good deal of income by way of *tharavila*, back arrears and recurring revenue. Another sketch I would place before the House is the one in regard to the encroachments on the banks at the tail end of the Karamanai river where there are very many such encroachments. The third map which I have with me is a sketch of the Todupuzha river in its higher reaches where encroachments have been detected. These accountants have heavy work to do and under proper supervision they are doing a great deal of good work. All this will bring plenty of revenue. If these special accountants and chainmen are abolished, the work of land records maintenance, the importance of which all the members on the other side have already admitted, will not make satisfactory progress. I therefore, beg to oppose the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I rise to support Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai's motion. The work that the temporary staff is doing is one of survey carried on with a view to find out whether lands are available for registry. There is no necessity to maintain an establishment like this because in Travancore there is always an incessant demand for land. People find out for themselves whether land is available or not and then make the application.

PRESIDENT: This staff is not intended for finding out lands fit for registry, but for surveying them.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I think that the result of the work of these people is to show what lands are available for registry.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: That is one result. These special accountants do subdivision work and *poramboke* work. They

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do *puduval* work and survey *puduvals* which are below five acres in extent. All large areas are surveyed by a special puduval staff.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I will reserve my remarks till that question is taken up. Although the present staff is only for surveying *puduvals* and small areas, I think there is considerable force in the arguments advanced by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. In any case I support his motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, the Land Revenue Commissioner has stated that the temporary staff of accountants will have ample work to do. We do not question that. Our point is that we have already provided 608 accountants under the ordinary revenue staff. When you have already a large number of such accountants, why should there be this additional temporary staff of 153 accountants and others involving an extra expenditure of Rs. 36,000 and odd, especially at this particular juncture when, even according to the Financial Secretary, it is very hard to make both ends meet? Why not try to cut down some more items which we possibly can? What is required of the Land Revenue Commissioner is to put a little more pressure upon his subordinate officers and to see that the accountants, who are well-versed in subdivision work, discharge their duties properly.

I find from the proceedings of Government passed in 1914 that the primary duties of the accountants are the maintenance of survey stones and registers and the record of rights. The Peishkars should take some more pains in this direction and see that things are better attended to by their subordinates. Perhaps, next year if we are financially in a better position, we might contemplate the appointment of additional accountants. Now when we are not even able to pay our ordinary debts, is it not reasonable that at least this sum of Rs. 36,000 should be saved by not providing for something which is apparently not of an emergent nature?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, in the matter of these additional accountants, I have to state for the information of the member and the House that our *pakuthies* are unequal in extent and that many of them are unwieldy. We have allowed for some *pakuthies* one accountant, and for larger *pakuthies* two, while we have got also three accountants in some *pakuthies*, the highest number that could possibly be allowed to one *pakuthi*. Wherever there is more than one accountant, we have taken away one, for example at Karikode. One accountant and one peon alone have been allowed to small *pakuthies* and we have drawn the rest of the staff from there. If all the accountants are taken from the *pakuthies*, the work will get into confusion when a new man is put in and it will be impossible to carry on the work. Under the conditions obtaining at present, we work in batches. The work is centered in a few *pakuthies*. When that work is finished, we take up another set of *pakuthies*. I wanted a very large additional staff to be provided. But the Dewan cut it down to the smallest number possible consistent

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[Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

with efficiency of work. If the House now cuts it down still further, the result will be that the work will get clogged and come to a stand-still. I beg the House to consider that aspect of the question and grant me the full allotment provided in the budget.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, before I put this motion to the vote, I might remove one or two misapprehensions. I do not think that it would be economy to dispense with the services of these 153 accountants. As Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai knows, there are 608 permanent accountants and nearly as many *pakuthies*; and we are only entertaining a quarter of that number as temporary accountants. It has already been admitted that the Assistant Tahsildars should continue. If the money that has already been spent on them and their staff is not to be considered wasted and if we should continue them, we must give them facilities by giving them a sufficient establishment for their work.

As Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar has explained, we have removed all extra establishment from the *pakuthies* wherever possible. The proverthikar has got plenty of normal work to do. His main duty is the collection of revenue. He has to attend on officers and he has also to collect statistics and the collection of these statistics is in a most deplorable condition. About a year ago I tried, with the help of the Director of Agriculture, to collect statistics of agricultural information. I remember Mr. Velu Pillai asking the Director of Agriculture what was the output of paddy about 15 or 20 years ago. If we want to get such information, we must utilise the services of the permanent staff; and if you expect the permanent staff to do the normal work, you want some temporary establishment to do the special work. I, therefore, request the House to consider the question carefully before it is voted upon.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 11 voting *for* and 31 *against*.

The Council rose for lunch at 1-55 P. M.

The Council met again at Two Forty-Five of the Clock.

***Motions* 14 and 15.**

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: With your permission, Sir, I beg to make the following motions, *viz.*, Nos. 14 and 15, together, as they cover practically the same ground:

14. To omit the allotment of Rs. 5,621 for head-quarters office, under I. G. Land Revenue—Temporary Puduva] Staff; and

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15. To omit the allotment of Rs. 35,926 for the establishment of two parties, under G. Land Revenue—Revenue Survey Establishment—Temporary Puduval staff.

In 1096, when the Puduval Survey operations were started, it was stated in the G. O. on the subject that *puduval* lands were not properly surveyed and demarcated by the Revenue Department before assignment and that subdivision work was not satisfactorily performed. The Government, therefore, transferred the taluk surveyors to the Survey Department to attend to *puduval* survey and three survey parties were also sanctioned temporarily for two years and three months. Although the taluk surveyors have been transferred to the Survey Department, on paper they have been retained in the Revenue Department as of old and they are directed to attend to the refixing of survey-stones and the renewal of theodolite stations. Although they were to finish this latter work in six months, provision has been made for their continuance of the above duties in 1098 as well. Originally there were three puduval survey parties and I find that these have now been reduced to two. Even then the two parties consume about Rs. 40,000. I should consider that there is no justification for our having such an establishment for the next year. It has been suggested more than once, both in the Administration Report for 1096 and by the Financial Secretary, that the demand for *puduval* lands is at present considerably low. The revenue realised on account of the sale of *puduval* lands is comparatively small. Now, the main object of *puduval* survey seems to be to make more lands available for registry; and, in the course of that work, the registered holdings have also to be measured. In measuring these areas the survey officers are permitted under the G. O. to levy one rupee per acre by way of survey charges from the ryots. It is not at the request of the ryots that the survey is made; it is on account of the fact that Government want to make lands available for registry that the ryots have to pay.

PRESIDENT: This fee is not levied from lands already surveyed. It is in respect of unsurveyed lands occupied without permission that the fee is levied.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: My question is, when obviously there is no great demand for *puduval* lands, why we should incur an extra expenditure to the extent of about Rs. 40,000 during 1098. The general economic depression referred to by the Financial Secretary may be one of the reasons which may lower the demand for *puduval* lands during 1098 as well. I have already referred to this matter in connection with the general discussion on the budget. I should like to know what extent of lands has been made available for registry by the puduval survey party up to date. We have had three parties working for a definite period. How much of such lands has been made available for registry and actually applied for for registry? How much revenue has been derived by Government on account of the sale of lands thus rendered available by the survey parties? What is the extent of *puduval* lands found out and measured by the puduval survey parties in

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[Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar.]

the registered holdings? I should like to have some definite information on all these points. I sent up a series of questions in time to elicit from Government information on these points, but no answer has yet been given.

PRESIDENT: I must confess it did not strike me that those interpellations should be answered earlier. It would have been an advantage if the answer to your questions had been given earlier. I see it now.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I should like to have that information at least now. It will enable us to say whether one will be justified in incurring such large expenditure in 1098. In fact, when there arises a large demand for such lands, we might think of having additional survey parties. I find from the Administration Report for 1096 that *puduval* lands to a certain extent have already been made available for registry. I am not able to know how much has been applied for out of such lands. After all, if there is not much demand for lands, why should we create an unnecessary supply by incurring an enormous expenditure just now? If in any particular period in any particular area the demand is sufficiently high, it is open to the Government and the Land Revenue Commissioner to come to this House, with a demand for a supplementary grant and also with proposals for establishing temporary survey parties. Now that the L. R. M. work has been given to a separate staff, the ordinary revenue staff should be able to cope with additional work of this nature. Under the circumstances, I should think that, before spending any further sum on this head, there should be sufficient justification forthcoming to induce this House to vote for such a heavy expenditure.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI: I second the motion.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. In the first place, I would correct Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai in regard to the levy of fees on account of the cost of survey. The survey charges are levied, when *puduval* lands are either auctioned or assigned, from the party who gets the registry. It is not levied from lands already registered. But when we survey a big block, it so happens that it contains lands already registered and the registry-holder is benefited by the survey, since he then knows where his holding is located. If he has not demarcated and fixed the boundary and planted the demarcation stones, we make him do it. If he does not do it, we plant the stones.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether another resurvey may not be necessary in the case of these lands before resettlement?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: In the case of these minor circuits, a resurvey may not be necessary and if at all a resurvey is found absolutely necessary in some cases there is no doubt that the present operation will considerably minimise the cost of such resurvey.

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With regard to the information required by Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai regarding the progress of survey work, I have figures which I hope will satisfy him. I am reading from a statement received from the Survey Superintendent. The total area surveyed up to the end of Edavam is 70,577 acres. The number of minor circuits completed in the field is 555. The number of cases in which the preliminary records were supplied to the Tahsildar is 300, and the number of acres is 18,208. According to one provision of the Puduval Rules, as soon as the survey is made, the preliminary records should be supplied to the Tahsildar who deals with them. He either auctions the land or assigns them. This does not mean that the whole process involved in the work of plotting, etc., is completed in respect of that area. As for the revenue derived, I have got figures for the first ten months of this year. The *tharavila* realised is Rs. 1,54,495 and this amount has already come into the treasury. This amount includes not only the sale proceeds of *puduvals*, but also instalments due in respect of the old arrears. That is a very small figure.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Land Revenue Commissioner state what exactly is the amount realised by Government on account of the sale of *puduval* lands rendered available for registry by the puduval survey parties?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: I cannot say exactly what the amount is as regards the sale of *puduvals* for which preliminary records have been sent up.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know the amount covered by the new registries, at least on a rough calculation?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: I am not in a position to give the figure now. It involves detailed calculation.

As I have said already, the *tharavila* realised on *puduval* lands is Rs. 1,54,495. The sum realised by sale of *porambokes* is Rs. 41,581. Coffee and tea lands surveyed have brought in Rs. 49,425, and *vilayartham*, Rs. 3,783. The total amount by the sale of Government land already received in the treasury is Rs. 2,49,284. With regard to the survey of these *puduval* lands, I may offer my explanation in some detail. Whenever there is an application for survey which involves a large area and which includes several minor circuits, all the previous registries have of necessity to be located before we find out new lands; otherwise in many cases several registries will overlap one another, and there have been instances of that kind. They have to make a regular survey of the whole area, locate the registered lands, mark on the ground the extent of the land applied for and then proceed to register it. So that when a minor circuit is actually surveyed, it does not mean that the applicant's extent alone is surveyed. And then, the minor block may contain *poramboke* and registered areas. For the purpose of ascertaining the *poramboke* encroachments also, a survey has to be made. Now our survey operations are going on in three groups. As there was a paucity of applications for *puduval* lands and as the price of such lands is going down, it was

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thought necessary to limit the operation to areas for which there are already applications on hand. So, we have reduced the three parties into two. It is not possible to reduce the number still further. But we shall confine our expenses as much as possible to the actual requirements. The actual requirements have been considered by the Government. Though the Superintendent requested for a sum of Rs. 90,000, it has been cut down by 54,000. This includes the cost of new survey and also the cost of completing the survey records which are in various stages of progress, besides office expenses and field expenses. I have therefore to oppose the motion.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: Sir, തൽക്കാലമായി നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പുതുവൽ സർവ്വേപാർട്ടിയെകുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. പരമേശ്വരൻപിള്ളയുടെപ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാൻ ബലമായി താങ്ങുന്നു. മുന്നാണ്ടുകളിൽ പുതുവൽ ഭൂമികൾ വാങ്ങുന്നതിനു ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പ്രിയമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നും അതിലേക്ക് ആ കാലത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ധാരാളം പണമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നും അപ്പോൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് അഭിപ്രായം പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഈ കാലത്തു പുതുവൽഭൂമികൾക്ക പ്രിയം വളരെ കുറവാണെന്നും അതിനു കാരണം ജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള പണത്തിൻറെ കുറവാണെന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് പറയുന്നു. സംഗതികളുടെ വാസ്തവമായ നില സൂക്ഷ്മമായി അന്വേഷിച്ചറിയുമ്പോൾ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻറെ ഈ അഭിപ്രായഗതികൾ തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകളെ അടിസ്ഥാനമാക്കിട്ടാണെന്നു തെളിയുന്നതാണ്. ഇടക്കാലത്തു ഭേദപ്പെട്ടതിയുണ്ടാക്കിയ പുതുവൽ, ചട്ടങ്ങളാൽ പുതുവൽഭൂമികളുടെ കരം, തറവില, തടിവില ഇവ വർദ്ധിക്കാൻ ഇടയായി. കൂടുതലായ ഈ ഭാരം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക വഹിക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമായിരുന്നു എങ്കിലും പലരും മുമ്പുകൂട്ടി പുതുവൽ ഭൂമികളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു ദേഹണ്ഡം ചെയ്തുപോയതുകൊണ്ട് ആ ഭൂമികളെ വിട്ടുപോകാൻ സന്മതമില്ലാതെ മിക്കവാറും ആളുകൾ അവയെ പുതുവൽപതിപ്പിക്കയും ചേലത്തിൽ പിടിക്കയും ചെയ്തുട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ സ്ഥിതികളെ കണ്ടിട്ടാണ് പുതുവൽ ഭൂമികൾക്ക ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ പ്രിയമുണ്ടെന്നും അവരുടെ കൈയിൽ ധാരാളം പണമുണ്ടെന്നും ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് തെറ്റിദ്ധരിക്കാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളത്. ദേഹണ്ഡഭൂമികളെല്ലാം ഇങ്ങനെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക കിട്ടിയതിൽ പിന്നീടു പുതുവൽഭൂമികളിലുള്ള കരം, തറവില, തടിവില ഇവയുടെ കൂടുതൽകാണ് അവയിൽ ജനങ്ങൾ ഭ്രമിച്ചുവീഴാതെ ഇപ്പോൾ പിന്മാറിനില്ക്കുന്നു.

ദേഹണ്ഡഭൂമികളെ വിടാനുള്ള മടിയും, അത് എങ്ങിനെയെങ്കിലും വാങ്ങണമെന്നുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ താൽപര്യവും കണ്ടപ്പോൾ ഇതുപോലെ എല്ലാ കാലവും പുതുവൽഭൂമികൾക്ക ജനങ്ങൾ ഭ്രമിക്കുമെന്നും, അതിലേക്ക സൌകര്യമായ വിധം പുതുവൽഭൂമികളെ ചെറിയ ഖണ്ഡങ്ങളായി തിരിച്ചു സർവ്വെചെയ്തുവച്ചിരുന്നാൽ ധാരാളമായി വിറ്റു പണമുണ്ടാക്കാൻ എളുപ്പമായിരിക്കുമെന്നും ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് തെറ്റിദ്ധരിച്ചതിനാലാണ് ഇങ്ങനെയൊരു സർവ്വെപാട്ടിയുണ്ടാവാൻ ഇടയായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. പുതുവൽ ഭൂമികളെ ചെറിയ ഖണ്ഡങ്ങളായി തിരിച്ചു സർവ്വെ ചെയ്തു രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ മാസത്തിനകം വില്ക്കാൻ സൌകര്യപ്പെടാതെ പോന്നതായാൽ ആ സ്ഥലത്തെ സർവ്വെപാട്ടിക്ക തന്നെ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കാത്തവിധം കാടുകയറിപ്പോകുമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. ഈ കാരണത്താൽ പുതുവൽഭൂമികളെ ചെറിയ ഖണ്ഡങ്ങളായി ഡിമാർക്കേറ്റു ചെയ്തു ഉടനെ വില്ക്കുന്നതായിവരുന്നു. ഈ ബദ്ധപ്പാടിലും ദ്രുതഗതിയിലും ആ ഭൂമിയുടെ വില കുറഞ്ഞുപോകാതിരിപ്പാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാത്തതാണ്. ഏക്കറിനു നൂറു രൂപായ്ക്കു വിറ്റിട്ടുള്ള ഭൂമിയോടു ചേർന്നു കിടപ്പുള്ള അതേമാതിരിയുള്ള ഭൂമികളെ നൂറു രൂപായ്ക്കുപോലും വില്ക്കാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് അറിയുന്നത്. പുതുവൽ ഭൂമികൾ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ ഒരു മൂലധനമായി കരുതി സൂക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതിനു പകരം തൽക്കാല

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ലാഭത്തെ മാത്രം കരുതി അവയെ കണ്ടമാനം കുറഞ്ഞ വിലയ്ക്കു വിൽക്കുന്നതു രാജ്യത്തിന് ഏറ്റവും നഷ്ടമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. പുതുവൽ ഭൂമികൾക്ക് ആവശ്യക്കാർ ധാരാളമുണ്ടെന്നു കാണുമ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സർവ്വെപാട്ടിയെ നിയമിക്കയില്ലാതെ ഇപ്പോൾ അതിനെ വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്തതാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഈ സർവ്വെപാട്ടിയെ നിറുത്തൽ ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN: Sir, ലേലത്തിൽ വിറ്റാലും മറ്റാതതിരിച്ചുഭൂമികളെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ചെറിയ അംശങ്ങളായി തിരിക്കുന്നതിനാണല്ലോ പുതുവൽ സർവ്വെപാർട്ടി ആവശ്യമെന്നു വച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയ്ക്ക് ഇതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു നഷ്ടവും ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഓരോരുത്തരിൽ ഉപദ്രവവുമുണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനല്ലാതെ യാതൊരു ആദായത്തിനും വഴികാണുന്നില്ല. ഇപ്പോൾ സർവ്വെചെയ്തു തിരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഭൂമികൾക്കുതന്നെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു തൃപ്തികരമായ വിലയ്ക്കു ലേലത്തിൽ കൈമുതാനോ പതിച്ചെടുക്കുവാനോ ആവശ്യക്കാരില്ല. ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന മൂവാറ്റുപുഴതാലൂക്കിലെ കുട്ടമംഗലം പകുതിയിൽ ഇപ്രകാരം സർവ്വെ ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ട തരിശുഭൂമികളിൽ വളരെ ഭാഗം ലേലത്തിൽ കൊള്ളുവാനോ പതിച്ചെടുക്കുവാനോ ആളില്ലാതെ കിടക്കുന്നു. ഉദ്ദേശം ഒന്നരവർഷത്തിനുമുമ്പു കുട്ടമ്പുഴഗ്രൂപ്പിൽ ഏക്കറിനു മുന്നൂറുരൂപായും മറ്റും തറവിലയായി ലേലത്തിൽ വിറ്റ ഭൂമിയുടെ ബാക്കി ഭാഗങ്ങൾ ഉപരിഗണമുള്ളവ ഏതാനും മാസങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു ലേലം ചെയ്തതിൽ മുൻ ലേലസംഖ്യയുടെ എട്ടിലൊന്നുഭാഗംപോലും വിലവരാത്തതിനാൽ ലേലം നിറുത്തിവച്ചിരിക്കയാണ്. പ്രസ്തുത സ്ഥലങ്ങളുടെ സർവ്വെ ബൌണ്ടറികൾ ഇപ്പോൾ മുഴുവൻ കാടുകയറി മൂടിട്ടുണ്ട്. സർവ്വെക്കാരികൾക്കും മിക്കവാറും കാട്ടാൻകാർ തട്ടിക്കളഞ്ഞിരിക്കും. ഇനിയൊരുകാലത്തു കൂടുതൽ വിലയ്ക്കു ഭൂമി പതിച്ചെടുക്കുവാൻ ആരും ഏറ്റെടുമ്പോൾ വീണ്ടും സർവ്വെ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായി വരും. അപ്പോൾ ആദ്യത്തെച്ചിലവു വ്യർത്ഥമാണല്ലൊ. ഇതെപ്രകാരം തന്നെയാണ് രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും സംഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു ന്യായമായി വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. വിളവു സാധനങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കുറവിനാലും ക്ഷാമത്താലും പുതുവൽഭൂമികൾ പതിച്ചെടുക്കുവാൻ ആളുകൾ ഏറ്റെടുക്കാത്ത ഇക്കാലത്ത് തരിശുഭൂമികളെ സർവ്വെ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി ഒരു വലിയ സംഘം സർവ്വെയർമാരെ ഏറ്റെടുത്തിവച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു കേവലം അനാവശ്യമാണ്. ചില്ലറയായി വല്ല സ്ഥലങ്ങളും പതിച്ചെടുക്കുന്നതിന് ആളുണ്ടാകുന്ന പക്ഷം അതുകൾ സർവ്വെചെയ്തു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ധാരാളം മതിയാകും. പുതുവൽസർവ്വെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കൊണ്ടു നാട്ടിൻപുറത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാർക്കുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഉപദ്രവങ്ങളും ദുഃഖങ്ങളും ചില്ലറയൊന്നുമല്ല. ഓരോ തരിശുനമ്പരുകളിലും കുറച്ചെല്ലാം പതിഞ്ഞഭൂമികൾ കണ്ടേക്കാം. അതുകളെ അത്യുത്സാഹത്തോടെ സർവ്വെചെയ്തു നിറുത്തിയതിനുശേഷം പിന്നീടാണ് തരിശുസ്ഥലങ്ങളെ സർവ്വെ ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങിനെ ഓരോ നമ്പരുകളും ഓരോ അവസരങ്ങളിൽസർവ്വെ ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഉൾനാടുകളിലെ കൃഷിക്കാർ എപ്പോഴും സർവ്വേക്കായ്ത്തിൽ ശ്രദ്ധയോടും ജാഗ്രതയോടുംകൂടിയിരിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഒരു റിസർവ്വേകൂടാതെ ഇതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം കായ്ത്തിനു അവസാനിക്കുന്നുമില്ല. ഈ നിലയ്ക്കു പുതുവൽ സർവ്വേ പാട്ടിവകയ്ക്ക് ഈ ചിലവു ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു് ഒരു തരത്തിലും അനുവദിക്കത്തക്കതായിരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I rise to express my complete agreement with the motion that has been brought forward by Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai. The *puduval* policy that has been pursued by Government with the object of making more lands available for registry and rendering greater assistance to those who go in quest of land calls for a two-fold analysis. The chief reasons that weigh with the Government for pushing on this policy is that it would enable them

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to get some money year after year by way of *tharavila*. From the figures that have been placed before the House by Mr. Antanarayana Aiyar, the belief becomes stronger than ever that that policy is not a sound one. I wish to say that these resources have to be conserved for future use as well as present occupation. Again in mountainous tracts, *puduval* lands are infested with elephants and bison; and so even if the survey be effected, the lands will be rendered useless by overgrowth in about two or three years, as there is no chance of these lands being at once taken up by the people for purposes of cultivation, owing to the general depression in the money market. This point has been emphasised by other members also and I need not dilate upon it.

There is another aspect which appears to be more important. The Government is not even the owner of these *puduval* lands. The principle of Hindu law is that land belongs to the first man who puts it to beneficial use. This view had been accepted in the Attapadi case, reported in the Madras Law Reports (8, Madras), a case in which eminent jurists like Turner and Muthuswami Aiyar, J. J., took part. We find that the Government have been usurping the right of the subject for so many years. Sir T. Madhava Rao deplored that people were not going in for *puduval* registry. Matters have now gone to the other extreme, and the policy of registering land has been pushed on to such an extent that there is an apprehension—a legitimate apprehension—among the people that in a few years' time there would be no *puduval* at all and that the *puduval* survey is intended more to benefit the fiscal object of the Government than to benefit the people. It is not reasonable that the rights of land-holders should be interfered with so often because there are mistakes in the measurements resulting from careless survey. And it is not at all equitable to make the registry-holder pay the price of demarcation stones when the fault lies with the Government.

PRESIDENT: That is not being done. What Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar said was with reference to the missing stones.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Even for that the land-holders should not be asked to pay, espicially at this time when *tharavila* and tax are high. This rule works a great difficulty. The possibility of getting large sums on account of the assessment of *tharavila* should never weigh with Government, because if we create unnecessary supply, the demand is bound to become slack. The price of land has been diminished by the circumstance that industries such as rubber and tea have suffered. It was the Europeans that raised the value of land in Travancore. Now, because the profits from rubber and tea are small, Europeans are not coming forward for land as they used to do for the last several years. It is necessary to keep in reserve large blocks of lands. If the people apply for such lands, the Tahsildar should give them suitable portions. I should consider that money spent in dividing and subdividing large blocks is spent without any profit to Government or to the people. For these reasons, I am in entire accord with the motion.

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RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, under the head of income from the sale of Government land, budgeted for in the coming year, there is a provision of Rs. 5,25,300. I presume that the Government had sufficient data before they budgeted for such a big income as Rs. 5 lakhs and odd, against Rs. 3,00,000 in the current year. I do concede that, in view of the large estimate under income, some provision should be made for a survey party to deal with applications for the registry of *puduval* lands. It may be that the staff attached to the Taluk Cutcherries and the Survey Department are not sufficient to cope with the work, but my question is whether the situation will not be met by cutting down the two parties into one and reducing the contemplated expenditure of Rs. 35,926 by Rs. 17,000. I think that this is possible and, with your permission, Sir, I beg to move an amendment to that effect to the motion before the House.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Sir, in supporting Mr. Krishna Aiyangar's amendment, I may say that, according to the figures given by Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar, there are 70,000 acres already surveyed, while the amount realised is only Rs. 2 lakhs. There is the extent of 70,000 acres already surveyed, which means Rs. 14 lakhs worth of *puduvals* to be registered. That being the case, there is no necessity to spend a large amount any longer on this account. But there may be one objection. Suppose a person applies for the registry of *puduval* land in a taluk which has not been surveyed. Then the taluk surveyor may not be able to do that work. In that case some staff like a flying column may be asked to survey those lands, and if this arrangement is introduced, not merely Rs. 17,000, but something more may be reduced.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: I wish to ask whether the so called temporary staff is really temporary or whether they are in the permanent *cadre*.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Some of them are temporary hands, while some others are on deputation from the permanent *cadre*, but even these latter are temporary so far as *puduval* work is concerned.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I oppose the amendment, because it is a question of principle upon which there seems to be some difference of opinion in the House. Once the principle is granted, there cannot be any wisdom in allowing the staff as Mr. Govinda Menon put it, although he supported the amendment on the ground that lands might have to be surveyed in different parts of the State. There is no reason why one locality should be favoured and another not allowed the same privilege. If that is the principle, as I take it, and if the House accepts the proposition that the survey should go on, it is economical to have two parties. The question is whether we want the work to be done at all and not whether one party is adequate. I hope the Council will keep that point in view.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, as a matter of personal explanation, I may be permitted to say a few words. It was as a matter of principle that I also made the suggestion. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai has stated that, when applications for puduval registry

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come in and when the Government realise the necessity for the payment of a temporary survey party, they may come before the Council and ask for a supplementary grant. I regard that as objectionable from the standpoint of the general principle of budgeting.

We are now trying to meet the requirements of the whole of the next year. If under exceptional circumstances Government are not able to meet these requirements with the grant already sanctioned, they are at liberty to approach the Council once again for further grants. Having that principle in view, we ought not to shirk our responsibility on this occasion. We ought to provide for a temporary party to meet the requirements for the coming year. In view of the present general economic depression I thought that the requirements of the situation would be amply met by one party being provided for. It does not mean that the whole party should always be at a particular locality. A portion of that staff may be deputed to another part of the State as well.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I am at one with Mr. Krishna Aiyangar as regards his amendment. But I should like to point out that I could not find anything wrong in principle in regard to what Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai said. For, I find that in the Madras Legislative Council, Mr. C. R. Reddi in making a motion said:

"Even if you cut it down by a sum of Rs. 1,12,000 as proposed in this motion, there is nothing to prevent them from coming to this House again for a supplementary grant and I think that it would be advisable for this House so to make its proposal as to make Government come occasionally to us and not to ignore us altogether until next March. We ought to be in a position occasionally to exercise the very legitmate pressure that all legislatures have through the power of the purse, and we believe motions of this kind are the least inconvenient with which we can take action of the kind proposed."

It will be a source of consolation to Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai if I move another amendment. In the light of the proposal to cut down one of the survey parties, the expenditure on account of the temporary headquarters staff, *viz.*, Rs. 5,621, may be cut down.

Mr K. P. Raman Pillai's amendment was ruled out, as being not in order.

MR. G PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I accept Mr. Krishna Aiyangar's amendment.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, one point which I wish to make clear to the House, and about which a reference was made by Mr. Govinda Menon is in regard to the area surveyed and made available for registry. Of course, I said that 70,577 acres had been surveyed and that out of this area nearly 12,000 acres had been disposed of. That does not mean that the remaining area is available for registry, as it may include lands which are already in occupation and which have been assigned.

Then as regards the reduction in the number of survey parties, the matter has been fully considered by the Government. So far as the logic of the thing is concerned, I accept all the premises of the members on the other side, and there is no disagreement in that respect.

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Mr. Kunjitonman simply repeated all that I said in regard to the demand for land.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I ask if the amendment is accepted by Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: There is considerable difficulty in reducing one party altogether, because the work has to be done by more than one party. Portions of minor blocks have been taken up and there is much work remaining to be completed. There is, for example, one party working in Todupuzha, while another is working at Kalial in the Vilavankod taluk. It would be impossible to dismiss one party and continue the other party alone. If the members would withdraw their motions with the permission of the House, I would try as much as possible to restrict the scope of the operations of the party, reducing the number of hands employed, and curtailing the expenditure on them to Rs. 15,000. I hope this assurance will satisfy the members on the other side.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: I ask only for a reduction of Rs. 17,000.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: I am prepared to cut it down by about Rs. 15,000.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Does it mean, subject to a minimum of Rs. 15,000?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: For two parties, the amount is Rs. 35,000. It comes to Rs. 17,000 roughly for one party.

PRESIDENT: That is not what Mr. Anantararayana Aiyar says. He says that he will endeavour to reduce the strength of each party and not abolish one party altogether.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: I am indifferent as to whether it is one party or two or even more parties. I only want a total reduction of Rs. 17,000. The manner in which the reduction is to be effected, I leave to the discretion of the Land Revenue Commissioner. It is enough if the expenditure under this head is restricted to Rs. 18,926.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: I shall try to reduce it as much as possible.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: After all, there is not much difference between Rs. 17,000 and Rs. 15,000, and I do not think that public interests are going to be seriously prejudiced if my friend accepts a reduction of Rs. 17,000.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: I rise to a point of order. Mr. Krishna Aiyangar cannot speak now. He has already had his say.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: I am entitled to have my say by way of suggestion. I cannot accept Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar's reduction in the form in which it is put.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: There are some difficulties in the way. I can give an assurance that I shall reduce the amount

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by Rs. 15,000, but if the House insists on it, I have no objection to accept Mr. Krishna Aiyangar's proposal.

The amendment of Rao Bahadur Krishna Aiyangar was accepted by the House.

PRESIDENT: In regard to motion No. 14, for the omission of Rs. 5,621, I may say that there is work to be done in the office and it will not be possible to make a reduction.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motion* 16.**

The following motion was not made.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

16. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,850 for travelling allowances under I—G. Land Revenue—Revenue Survey—by Rs. 600.

***Motion* 17.**

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

17. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,253 for "Revenue Survey—Supplies, and Services and Contingencies," by Rs. 4,966.

Sir, this includes puduval survey contingencies. When one of the two parties is abolished, so much of expenditure will not be required under the item of contingencies. So I move that that amount be reduced as proposed by me.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, these contingencies cannot be reduced and I must oppose the motion. We retain two parties at reduced strength. That does not mean the reduction of anchal charges and other incidental expenses. I have already given the assurance that I shall reduce the expenditure on puduval survey parties as far as possible.

PRESIDENT: Can you not cut it down by Rs. 2,000, seeing that you are reducing the strength of the parties?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: I can allow a reduction of Rs. 1,000 in chainmen's wages. If we reduce the amount still further, we shall be put to the necessity of going in for a supplemental grant, which we must avoid.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Out of Rs. 4,966, Rs. 3,000 is on account of wages for the two parties, so that there must be a substantial reduction at least to the extent of Rs. 2,000.

Mr. K. Anantanarayana Aiyar agreed to a reduction of Rs. 2,000 and this was accepted by the House.

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Motion No. 18.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

18. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8·78 lakhs under Demand I by Rs. 60,000

Sir, as I attempted to say early this morning, my object in giving notice of this motion is to impress upon the Government and to invite a pronouncement on the extreme necessity of the Government laying down a definite policy in dealing with the national asset of land, in making capital investments not charged to revenue, and in dealing with lands at the disposal of Government. I need hardly point out that while the Pallivasal and Periyar Schemes are sanctioned on two different principles, the Kallar Scheme is proposed to be sanctioned on a third. Similarly, the Quilon-Shencottah and the Quilon-Trivandrum Railways are worked on different principles. The Government investment on the Punalur Paper Mills ended in failure. The sanctioned investment on the Travancore Sugars Company is also likely to be a failure unless the Government are prepared—

PRESIDENT: All this has nothing to do with land revenue.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I am entitled to raise general principles.

PRESIDENT: But only with reference to land revenue.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Till a few years ago, there was a law in Travancore requiring the special sanction of the Government if Europeans wished to purchase lands in Travancore. That has been abrogated by one stroke of the pen.

PRESIDENT: That is not correct. Non-Travancoreans cannot get lands without the permission of Government even under the existing rules.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: While we recognise the fact that Europeans were the pioneers of industries in Travancore, whether it be cardamom, tea, rubber, cocoanut-oil or coir, we must impress upon Government that the people of Travancore have not been far behind them in these matters. It should be borne in mind that, if this state of affairs were to continue, the people of this country would be at the mercy of the European capitalists. It is consoling to note the remark made by the Dewan at the seventeenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly that "nothing is further from the intention of the Government than the creation of facilities to the outsider for the exploitation of land in Travancore." I wish to emphasise the fact that it is high time to make the various revenue Divisions and other units conterminous as far as possible. We heard the Land Revenue Commissioner say a little while ago that several *pakuthies* are unwieldy and many of them are not uniform in area. Government have reduced the number of taluks to a minimum of 30. I fail to see why. They did not extend the same principle to the Excise Department. It is to discuss these principles that I sent up this motion. I am sure Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar,

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

with his grasp of details of the Land Revenue Department, will be able to adjust the finances of the department in such a way as to be able to make a cut of the amount I have suggested from the whole budget, the allotment of which comes to Rs. 8·78 lakhs.

MR. C. RAMANKUNJU: Sir, I support Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai's motion.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, I certainly oppose this motion. I have already consented to a very large reduction in the amounts that I asked for; and the expenditure on survey operations has been cut down. In the forthcoming reorganisation of the Land Revenue Department, a large number of hands have to be thrown out. This is a reorganisation in pursuance of which four taluks have to be abolished, as also a Division and a Divisional Treasury. It would be impossible to work the department with the reduction of the large sum proposed by my friend, Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai. It will cripple the resources of the department and work will be at a standstill in some respects. I cannot see how we can make further cuts in a budget that has, in the words of Mr. George, been "relentlessly cut down" even at the inception, by the Dewan.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, may I say one word? The proposition before the House is to cut down Rs. 60,000 out of the demand made by the Land Revenue Commissioner. The mover has not stated any grounds to reduce the budget figure by Rs. 60,000, so that the House may be in a position to know whether any curtailment is necessary. On the other hand, if I understood the member aright, he said that he wanted only to discuss general questions of policy not connected with the Land Revenue Department, but with some other departments. I do not think, therefore, that my friend seriously presses for the acceptance of the motion; and I believe he has pleased himself by saying what he wanted to say before the House. I hope he will have no objection to withdraw his motion at this stage.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, but before I withdraw the motion, I should like to receive from the Land Revenue Commissioner or from some other member on the other side some answer to the proposition I raised.

PRESIDENT: Would you please tell me to which proposition you refer?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Whether Government intends pursuing a definite policy—

PRESIDENT: You cannot, in a matter like this, expect a declaration of policy by the Government at such short notice and at the budget discussion stage.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: With the permission of the House, I withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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Motion 19.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

"19. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 8·78 lakhs under Demand I by Rs. 50,000.

In bringing this motion I wish to raise two points for consideration. The first is the enormous growth of expenditure which has been the subject-matter of so much talk on this side of the House and which has been attempted to be defended by my friends on the other side very vehemently a few days ago. I find that the land revenue receipts amount to Rs. 44 lakhs and the total expenditure under land revenue to about Rs. 10 lakhs. This works to about 23 per cent. In 1920, the figures in British India under this item worked out at 17½ per cent. only. My motion aims at a reduction of less than 5 per cent. out of the total expenditure. I daresay this is not an extravagant claim put forward from this side of the House. The Land Revenue Commissioner should lead the way in effecting substantial retrenchment. Of course, it has been said that retrenchment had been effected in a "relentless" manner. We, however, have not been able to see any particular allotment worth the name having been reduced substantially. I submit that Rs. 20,000 out of an allotment of Rs. 8·78 lakhs cannot be considered in these days of financial stress to be a substantial reduction. My point, at any rate, is that since we are not in a position to effect substantial cuts owing to the very many limitations by which we are surrounded, it is only reasonable to demand a modest reduction from the whole allotment to the extent of less than 5 per cent., so as to keep up the principle of reduction at least to some extent.

One other matter that I wish to bring to the notice of this House is the culpable indifference on the part of the revenue authorities in the matter of land records maintenance. It has been the plank on the other side of the House that so much of expenditure is rendered necessary on account of the muddled state of affairs in the Revenue Department. This state of affairs should not be allowed to run on thus; and this House should not be indented upon from time to time for subsidiary grants for separate establishments to assist the officers in the ordinary work of the department. In regard to L. R. M. work, the department had been indifferent for a long time. Peishkars and Tahsildars do not appear to have borne any responsibility in this matter. What is the result? A very large additional grant has been asked for. If we are to allow this state of affairs to continue, the Tahsildars and the Peishkars will be doubly indifferent. Already the magisterial and Devaswom functions have been separated and the responsibility of these officers in regard to L. R. M. work has been taken away from them by providing a separate staff to look after that work. The ordinary revenue staff will be absolutely indifferent hereafter. This should not be so. I hope that the Tahsildars and the Peishkars will bear this aspect of the case in mind and will bestow more satisfactory attention upon land records maintenance work which is the most important duty legitimately devolving on them. I hope that, at least with the end of 1098, we shall have a

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[Mr. A. Govinda Menon.]

better story to hear. Let us not have this sorry spectacle repeated in this House.

PRESIDENT: I am sure that the vigilance of this House will prevent indifference in future.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I am anxious to bring home these two points. That was the object of my motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I second it.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion, and I repudiate the very serious charge laid at the door of the Land Revenue Department. No doubt, things are faulty; but, who is responsible? Who is the individual to whom the finger of disapproval can be pointed directly and the charge laid that he has not done his work? It is the system that is to blame and not the individual. I mean that the fault lies in the system of recruitment and in the combination of functions now assigned, and not in the individual officers concerned. So, the general charge of indifference and neglect of work cannot stand. If Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai or anybody else in this House will charge any particular member with any particular act of indifference, I shall certainly take action against him and hand him up to Government for condign punishment. Then as to the other point raised by my friend, I am sorry I fail to see how any retrenchment can possibly be effected. I have already told the House that we are throwing out a very large number of hands and that we shall be at a great disadvantage. So far as increase of pay is concerned—

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Land Revenue Commissioner be pleased to say under what item it is that a very large number of hands are to be thrown out?

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: I have already explained it to the House. It is by reducing four taluks, one Divisional Treasury and a whole Division. So far as increase of pay is concerned, it is only a small dole that this department gets in the revision of salaries. I cannot speak anything about it, but all that I need say is that the village staff and the peons have got half a rupee and the Proverthikars one rupee each, while the accountants have got nothing. That is the result of the reorganisation, as compared with other departments. Because the Land Revenue Department happened to be taken up last, it came in for a relentless pruning. I regret that I cannot see my way to accept the motion.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: Sir, I beg to submit that the latest figure available for the Madras Presidency in respect of land revenue collection is 22 per cent., while the figure for Mysore is 23 per cent., of the total revenue derived from the department.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: Sir, may I quote from the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhammad Habib-ul-lah at the last session of the Madras Legislative Council? He said;

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"I cannot accept a higher figure than 14 per cent. and if 14 per cent. is regarded as in any way high for the purpose of raising the total demand extending to several crores, then I can hardly understand the justness of the argument."

PRESIDENT: It depends upon the classification you adopt.

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON: 14 per cent. should be allowed for expenditure and then the figure comes to only Rs. 6 and odd lakhs. Having made some cuts already, I will, for my own part, propose an amendment asking for a reduction of only a thousand rupees, making a total of Rs. 20,000. Of course, it will be a round figure.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I beg to support the motion. I think it would be quite possible for the Land Revenue Commissioner who is a very experienced officer and who is also prepared to oblige us to reduce some portion of the field establishment. Now, Sir, there is one great difficulty which presents itself to everybody who sees a Taluk office or a Division Cutcherry at work. There are too many field offices. But the establishment in the Divisional and Taluk Cutcherries is utterly inadequate. I speak from personal experience, because as a lawyer I have had occasion to go to Taluk and Division Cutcherries, where the presiding officers exercise magisterial functions. The inefficiency of the staff is a matter which arrests the attention of even casual visitors. It is important to bear in mind that all this is due to the absence of a proper officer to co-ordinate the work of the Land Revenue Department as a whole—one who can think out and suggest schemes for the betterment of the department as a whole. There are several instances in which the Chief Engineer, the Director of Public Instruction, the Excise Commissioner, the Darbar Physician—all these officers have made recommendations for increased staff and increased pay, and it has been usual for the Government to accept their proposals. Hitherto there was but a divided control in the Land Revenue Department and no Peishkar was able to make general proposals, as he was only concerned with the affairs of the particular Division under his charge. There has been a steady increase in the number of field officers which means increased duties to the clerical staff. The clerks are greatly overworked. They get no leisure even in their homes, as they are obliged to take heavy files for nocturnal consumption and collaboration. These people rise from their sleep with desperation in their eyes due to low pay and heavy work. I make this statement definitely and deliberately. If this cannot be rectified, the field officers cannot do work, as their communications to the head office will remain unanswered. If the work in the Division offices should be efficient and up-to-date, the Land Revenue Commissioner should see that young men with plenty of energy and equipment are appointed to the responsible position of Peishkars.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I also wish to say a word with respect to the nature of the work in the Land Revenue Department in the past. Mr. Anantanarayana Aiyar seems to accept the motion. But he says that it is the fault of the system and not the fault of the *personnel*.

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[Mr. K. Anantananarayana Aiyar.]

PRESIDENT: You have already supported the motion; you should have spoken then. I am afraid you cannot speak again.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: Sir, Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai wants a cut of Rs. 60,000 and Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai says that the staff in the Division Cutcherry and other offices is not sufficient. I do not think it is possible to make any further cut. We have been going through the various items and it was found possible only to make a reduction to the extent of Rs. 19,500. No doubt it is open to the member to move for any lump sum reduction under ever so many items. I thought the motion in the present instance was intended to discuss the question of land revenue administration, seeing that the House has come to the conclusion that only Rs. 19,500 could be reduced.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I hope the member is aware that very many of the items are not votable.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR: The non-votable items are not before the House. I need hardly state that, out of the total allotment for the Land Revenue Department, it is only the votable amount that is now before the House. Seeing that we were at great pains to reduce the expenditure and we succeeded only to the extent of Rs. 19,500, a lump sum reduction of Rs. 60,000 would be too much and I believe it will completely paralyse the administration of the department, as was vehemently pointed out by Mr. Velu Pillai. I believe what Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai wanted was that persons who are responsible for the administration of land revenue should bear the defects he pointed out in mind, and I also believe that, seeing that his object has been achieved, he will see his way to withdraw the motion.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I withdraw the motion on the clear understanding that all the suggestions made in this Council will be considered by Government.

PRESIDENT: All the motions made in this House are for the consideration of the officers of the Government.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The motions made under Demand I, Land Revenue, are now over. The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 8·78 lakhs, *minus* Rs. 19,500, under Demand I—Land Revenue—be granted.

The grant was made.

Demand II—Taxes on Income.

MR. K. ANANTANARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 19 lakh on behalf of the Income-tax Department.

Motion 20.

The following motion was not made:

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